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The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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COVER: Sgt. John Sabarese of New York greets his 3-year-old daughter Faith, also right, upon returning from a second deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom. *USMC*

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The Legion's helping hand

My chest swells with pride, and my heart is joyful, for the open-arms display by The American Legion in response to Hurricane Katrina's devastation. I will donate to the National Emergency Fund through my local post and urge all Legionnaires to do so in a like manner.

– Paul Apodaca, Champaign, Ill.

My neighbor, my hero

The movement to pull troops out of Iraq, to cut and run, is gaining momentum. Presumably, these naïve war protesters would also have left Hitler alone in World War II. Pacifists fail to grasp that Western civilization is under serious attack from people who hate us more than Hitler did.

Our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan are placing their lives on the line, engaged in an epic struggle. Less than a week ago, Elden Arcand, a military truck driver in Iraq who grew up as my neighbor, gave his life near Mosul in an unfortunate accident, demonstrating again that freedom is not free. Elden died not just in defense of Western civilization, but of you and me. He requested duty in Iraq. We are forever in his debt.

I'm becoming mighty impatient with these sideline kibitzers, far from the battle, who would dishonor that struggle and the sacrifices of heroes like Elden Arcand.

– Richard Doyle, Forest Lake, Minn.

'Libraries of Terror'

I am writing on behalf of the American Library Association to express my surprise and great disappointment at Deroy Murdock's description of American libraries in "Libraries of Terror" (September).

The American public library is a unique and truly democratic institution that provides access to recorded knowledge, information, ideas and opinions across the political and social spectrum for everyone – without regard to a person's race, ethnicity, income, age or status.

Libraries represent – and protect – our most treasured freedoms as Americans. Libraries give all of us the tools and information needed to be well-informed, responsible, educated citizens ready to participate in self-government as envisioned by our forefathers. Libraries are the marketplace of ideas – the one place that is open to all to ask questions, find answers and debate the issues.

In almost every instance described by Murdock, the sole wrong alleged is that an accused criminal used the library. All criminals should be held responsible for their actions. It is not, however, a crime to visit the library and check out a book or use a computer.

The conviction that young persons are entitled to enjoy the same freedom to read as adults is not, as alleged by Murdock, a belief that children should be given adult-themed materials. Parents are responsible for monitoring their children's reading and computer use. Librarians work together with parents to assure that what a child borrows from the library is age-appropriate and a good fit for the child's reading level and interest.

Library staff members have always cooperated with law enforcement within the framework established by state library confidentiality laws. Unfortunately, Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act lowers the legal standard and facilitates "fishing expeditions" based on the belief that merely reading about certain opinions or ideas marks you as a potential criminal or terrorist, thus creating a "thought crime" – the hallmark of an oppressive state.

All librarians are, of course, concerned about our nation's security and library users' safety. Library policies prohibit illegal activities, and library procedures enforce these policies.

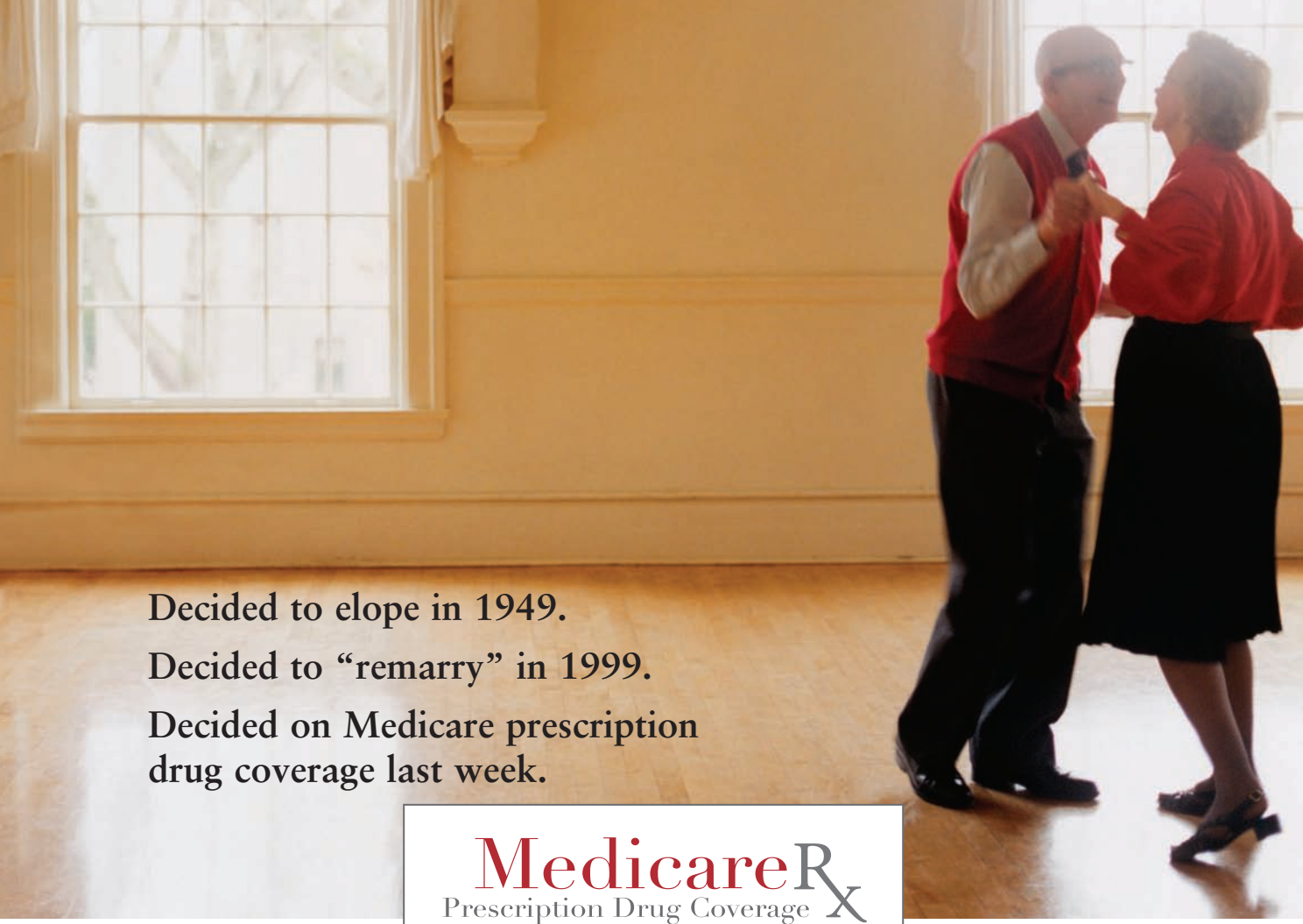
Targeting libraries and the freedoms they preserve will not make us safer. The PATRIOT Act should be amended to preserve the right to free inquiry and free conscience promised by our Constitution. I urge everyone to join the Campaign for Reader Privacy and to call federal elected officials to support legislation that would restore the protection of library records.

– Michael Gorman, president, American Library Association

On outsourcing

Lou Dobbs' article ("The Good of the Company vs. The Good of the Country," September) is long overdue and right on target. He is the only media voice that sounds the urgency of the deplorable and disastrous economic consequences engendered by rampant outsourcing of U.S. jobs – blue collar, white collar, et al. I just read an article in *The Economist* stating that now even Amazon will outsource software development to South Africa. "Globalization" and "free-trade" policies and agreements need to be tempered so Americans don't take all the hits.

Having owned a small business for 36 years, I fully understand the need and importance of trade to the well being of the United States – and other nations. But we simply cannot allow the rape



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The last day to sign up without paying a penalty is May 15, 2006. But why wait that long? Sign up before December 31, 2005 and enjoy the peace of mind of Medicare's new prescription drug coverage the very first day of the New Year.

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and devastation of U.S. jobs and industry for the sake of unbridled corporate and individual greed for money and power.

– Dean Blay, Kansas City, Mo.

Too bad someone as influential as Lou Dobbs is not familiar with the law of comparative advantage. This 200-year-old principle of basic economics explains why it is in a country's best interest to create and export the goods and services it makes or does best, and to import (or "outsource") what others can do better relative to their own economies.

Dobbs highlights as "problems" only various goods that can be manufactured more cost-effectively outside the United States and services others can do better and cheaper. He leaves out the fact that a very large share of the world's computer software, entertainment media, patented pharmaceuticals, cable-television news, convenience foods, commercial airliners, consumer products and many other things comes from the United States. We have a "comparative advantage" in producing these things, even if they cost more in absolute terms.

– Paul Bent, Long Beach, Calif.

Lou Dobbs' article on outsourcing was excellent, but he missed a key point. The biggest long-term cost of outsourcing is the failure to train and develop the next generation of skilled U.S. workers. Instead, we are developing the skills and experience of workers in foreign countries in key strategic areas – other countries that may one day be our rivals, if not our enemies. India, China, Mexico and others will be leading the world in engineering, science, medicine, software, integrated circuit design, manufacturing, metals processing and everything else that makes a country self-sufficient. And we will all be working at Wal-Mart when they take us over.

– Matt Egloff, Butte, Mont.

'Muscular Idealism'

As a student of military history, I found it a breath of fresh air to read "Muscular Idealism" (September), which explains the 8th-century fanaticism driving these murdering terrorists. The Arab communities are controlled by brutal muscular force. They are a tribal society driven by tribal laws and a strong leader who rules by force. When they saw Jimmy Carter back off, it was like opening up hunting season on the United States. The United States must persevere in this war if we are to survive as a free nation.

– Bob L. Yeager, Orangevale, Calif.

With heartfelt respect for Dr. Victor Davis Hanson's obviously superior education and accomplishments, I had to go to the dictionary five times to get through his interview. We still love ya, though, Doc!

– Stewart Ritchey, Mesa, Ariz.

'We Deliver the Goods'

Hearty thanks for Dan Allsup's piece on the Merchant Marine in World War II ("We Deliver the Goods," September). But one correction: the ship was the SS *Walter L. Fleming*, not the USS *Fleming*. Freighters and tankers all were designated SS, or MV for motor vessel, unless they were specially modified for fleet operations, and Libs were too slow for that. Bob Bodine's shipmates and other ships in the convoy might refer to his vessel as "the *Fleming*," but to look it up anywhere start with the first letter, W. Although tankers often carried fighter planes on deck, the *Walter L. Fleming* was a new, standard Liberty freighter, and its gasoline cargo was in drums or possibly tins, thus unloadable anywhere and just as liable as a tanker to vanish into thin air when bombed or torpedoed.

– Bruce L. Felknor, editor, "The U.S. Merchant Marine at War, 1775-1945"

By publishing recent articles on the plight of our World War II Merchant Mariners, you may have preserved the honor of a "grateful nation" before it is too late. Even if the bills don't pass this session, we greatly appreciate your recognition and support.

– F.O. "Clarke" Valles, Denver

'Never to Walk Alone'

I would like to thank *The American Legion Magazine* for publishing Sen. Bob Dole's article "Never to Walk Alone" (September). I had the great honor and privilege to work for Dole during the 1996 presidential campaign. He is truly a great patriot who served his country in war and peace with distinction. Above all else, he was a gentleman and treated everyone with courtesy and respect. The Senate was a better place while he served there.

– Ron Miller, Jonesboro, Ark.

Correction: *In "Revolutionary Déjà Vu"(October), the flag of Argentina was mistakenly published in place of the flag of Venezuela. We regret the error.*

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Veterans stand tall in time of crisis

National commanders of The American Legion traditionally use their November magazine space to summarize major issues confronting veterans in the year ahead. They write of such subjects as the VA budget, defense spending, terrorism, national security and American values. In doing so, they also deliver a message that salutes Veterans Day, a time to honor all who proudly served our nation in uniform and continue to uphold the highest standards of Americanism. It's a good way for a national commander to introduce himself – connecting key veterans issues with the true meaning of Veterans Day.

This year, God had a different idea: a hurricane named Katrina.

The late-August tempest that ravaged the homes and lives of tens of thousands of Americans along the Gulf Coast reshuffled everyone's priorities. Katrina immediately rose to the top of the Legion's list. Even before she was crowned America's most devastating hurricane in 105 years, the Legion was delivering grants from its National Emergency Fund, a disaster-relief program born in the aftermath of Hurricane Camille, which tore into the Gulf Coast in 1969.

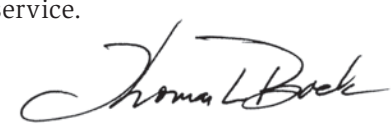
Soon after Katrina hit, NEF money was electronically transferred directly to members who needed it most. Overhead costs were, as always with the NEF, covered by National Headquarters. We decided early on that if necessary we would use every dime to help Legionnaires save lives, comfort survivors, reunite families and rebuild homes, posts and communities. That's what being a Legionnaire is all about.

Being a Legionnaire is about serving hot meals – 225 on one particular day – and providing shelter for storm evacuees at Post 271 in Kaplan, La. Being a Legionnaire is about Post 27 in DeRidder, La., which suddenly became home for patients with no other place to turn for kidney dialysis. It is about the 330,000 pounds of new clothing that came from a member of Post 71 in Salt Lake City. Being a Legionnaire is about Post 250 in Fowl River, Ala., which I visited after the storm. In one badly damaged room, members worked to clean and rebuild; in another room, they collected supplies for others in need. Everyone was mobilized. No one was making excuses or pointing fingers. They were too busy inculcating that "sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation" – words you find in the preamble of this organization's constitution.

At first, I thought there would be dozens of such stories. Now I realize there will be hundreds. As national mainstream media concentrate on the deficiencies of various government entities during the disaster, Legionnaires are performing their civic and moral duty to restore order. (For more examples, see Page 56.) In the coming months, their stories will unfold in national, department and local press.

These will be stories of veterans stepping up in their communities – whether raising funds in Minnesota or feeding the newly homeless in Mississippi – standing strong in the face of adversity, still serving their country and each other.

I can think of no better illustration of why America must always remember to take time on Nov. 11 to honor and thank our nation's veterans. Their response to Hurricane Katrina truly was, and continues to stand for, the true meaning of service.



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National Commander
Thomas L. Bock

MEMORANDA

DONATE TO THE NEF:
Hurricane Katrina and subsequent storms have left The American Legion with a new challenge. As veterans across the South rebuild their communities, members of this organization are urged to help rebuild the fund. All National Emergency Fund contributions are used exclusively to meet the most urgent needs of our members. Not one NEF dollar is used for fund-raising, administrative costs or fulfillment. Tax-deductible contributions to the NEF can be made by calling **(800) 433-3318**, by visiting **www.legion.org** or mailing checks to: **The American Legion National Emergency Fund, P.O. Box 6141, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**

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That is why such an outcry came from the American public when the leadership in Congress recently tried to pull the plug on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

Opponents of public broadcasting argued that the most recent attack was the product of a squeeze in a difficult budget year. Yet the leadership in Congress tried to sacrifice public broadcasting while still proposing a budget that would increase the deficit by billions of dollars.

Arguments about Big Bird being a "billionaire" fall flat in this debate. While "Sesame Street" merchandise generates substantial revenue, these profits go directly back into the production of such shows for public broadcasting.

This assault is really about the right wing's longstanding disdain for public television. I beat back attempts to eliminate federal support for public broadcasting more than 10 years ago.

The American public spoke loud and clear in 1995 and did again this year: we don't want to live in a society where pop culture dictates all that is offered on the airwaves. That's why I was so pleased that Reps. David Obey, Jim Leach and I were successful in restoring the funds the majority cut from public broadcasting in the 2006 budget.

This victory shows we can work across party lines to make our nation even stronger.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

Supporters say public broadcasting serves the public interest and thus deserves taxpayer support. Critics say it is time for public TV and radio to pay their own way.

Congress faces many challenges to fund necessary federal programs while at the same time lowering the budget deficit and keeping overall rates of growth in check. As a fiscally conservative member of Congress, it is my duty to find programs and agencies that are good targets for reduction or elimination.

One area is the annual subsidy for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). The CPB receives more than $400 million in federal funding each fiscal year – money better utilized for veterans health care, our nation's defense or tracking convicted sex offenders.

It is unbelievable that in this age of satellite television and hundreds of cable stations the federal government feels the need to continue funding public television. No other media outlet receives millions of dollars for operating expenses from Congress like CPB does. And yet the CPB continues to feed at the pork-laden trough that has supported it for decades.

The CPB has dozens of recognizable and marketable characters on its shows each day, including Big Bird, Elmo and Barney. These characters bring in billions of dollars each year in marketing rights and sales, and yet the CPB continues to demand more money from Congress. This must stop. Earlier this year, I denounced the lobbying efforts of the CPB to secure greater amounts of taxpayer funds for its broadcasting activities. The truth is that public broadcasting should be weaned off its subsidies and should rely on its fund-raising capabilities, merchandising and advertising to keep the same level of broadcasting quality.

I encourage Americans to support public television with personal charitable contributions. Their generosity will keep the CPB on the air and off the public dole.

CONTACT YOUR LEADERS

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Iran, Nukes and War

BY ALAN W. DOWD

Today, all the ingredients for war are simmering in Iran, a terrorist state ready to crash into the nuclear club. But is going to war the only way to prevent Iran from going nuclear? Maybe not. After all, it appears neither side wants a war with the other.

Iraq and Afghanistan have taught Washington that building nations can be harder than winning wars. As a consequence, U.S. forces are stretched thin. This is to be expected in a time of global war; however, it limits U.S. options and capabilities in Iran, where the risks are too high for America to simply cross its fingers and hope for the best. A nuclear-armed Iran would threaten the United States in a range of new ways, raising the specter of nuclear terrorism, nuclear blackmail, a new nuclear-arms race – even a regional nuclear war.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have taught the mullahs something as well: the U.S. military has the capacity, quite simply, to erase their regime. They want an insurance policy against that, so they are racing to build the only thing that seems to give America pause: a nuclear bomb. Make no mistake: that is the purpose of Iran's nuclear program. Iran does not need nuclear energy. It produces 79 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year, with proven reserves of 26.7 trillion cubic meters. And Iran has proven oil reserves of 130.8 billion barrels — enough to meet its current energy demands for 256 years.

Even as Iran's intentions come into sharper focus, the maturity of its nuclear program remains a mystery. For instance, the mullahs themselves concede that their scientists were conducting illegal plutonium-separation experiments as late as 1998. Up until last June, they insisted all such experiments had stopped in 1993. In late 2003 and 2004, international nuclear inspectors reported that Iran had breached agreements to suspend uranium-enrichment activity. Also in 2004, Pakistan confirmed that A.Q. Khan, father of Pakistan's bomb, had shared his secrets with Tehran. In fact, ever since their secret nuclear program was exposed in 2002, the mullahs have played games with the international community, granting access to some facilities but blocking access to others, promising to halt uranium conversion only to restart it days later, and defiantly issuing ultimatums on the price to shut down their nuclear program.

Options. In response to Tehran's dangerous dance, President Bush has said "all options are on the table," adding, "The use of force is the last option." Of course, if war breaks out, Tehran has options, too – many more options than Saddam Hussein had in March 2003:

■ The mullahs could use their arsenal of missiles to strike U.S. bases and allies in the region. Iran's Shahab-3, for example, has a range of 800 miles. The Iranians claim to have another missile with a range of 1,250 miles, bringing parts of Europe within reach.

■ Iran could use its naval assets to disrupt oil traffic through the Persian Gulf, a frightening prospect with gas prices surging. Many Americans forget that the United States and Iran fought a series of bloody naval battles in 1988. At its height, this "war on the Gulf" crippled a U.S. frigate, sank much of Iran's navy, and claimed more than 200 civilians when an Iranian jetliner veered over the battle space. Military analyst Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Security and International Studies notes that "Iran has given modernization of its naval forces high priority," acquiring sophisticated anti-ship missiles from China and Ukraine, long-range submarines from Russia, high-speed attack boats from France and an arsenal of some 2,000 mines. In Cordesman's view, Iran may have the "potential capability to close the Gulf," albeit temporarily.

■ Tehran would certainly not confine its military operations against the United States to traditional fields and forms of battle. Iran also would wage an asymmetrical war, using terror as its primary weapon. Tehran could unleash Hezbollah in North America, replicating not the nightmarish horror of 9/11 but rather the debilitating terror that stalks Tel Aviv, Baghdad and London. Bob Graham, former chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, says, "It is generally considered that Hezbollah has the largest number of agents in the U.S., many more than al-Qaeda." In fact, a full year before the 9/11 attacks, the FBI arrested 23 members and supporters of Hezbollah in suburban North Carolina. From Beirut to Flight 847 to Khobar Towers, this sleeper-cell army has played a role in the murders of some 300 Americans.

■ Tehran could turn up the heat in southern Iraq. As former Iranian leader Hashemi Rafsanjani said of the delicate U.S.-Iran-Iraq triangle, "they know that if Iran wanted, it could make their problems even worse." *Jane's Defense* notes that "Iranian intelligence agents have been extremely active in Iraq since the collapse of Saddam's regime." Coalition forces captured 30 Iranians during battles in August 2004. A year later, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld concluded that some of the weapons being used against U.S. troops were "clearly, unambiguously from Iran."

■ Depending on how far along their nuclear program has progressed, the mullahs could deploy or sell a dirty bomb, or even a full-blown nuclear weapon. At the very least, they could claim that they have done so, thereby paralyzing Washington.

American Legion resolutions on Iran

No. 77 Urges the federal government to expand incentives to industry to develop and use alternative energy resources to avert future U.S. dependency on foreign oil.

No. 157 Urges Congress to increase the defense budget to provide enhanced military quality of life, to close the pay gap with the private sector, to improve the military health-care system, to improve Montgomery GI Bill benefits, to reduce operations tempo and to cover the escalating costs of the war on terrorism. Refers to continuing challenges to stability posed by North Korea, the People's Republic of China, Iran and Iraq.

No. 159 Urges the U.S. government to develop and continue to deploy a national missile defense, a key ingredient in America's homeland security. Refers to Iran and North Korea as hostile nations "determined to acquire the capability to deliver a nuclear strike over long distances, including striking the continental United States."

National Convention, 2004

Although the United States has bases all around Iran – in Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkey and the Persian Gulf – one could argue that our growing presence in the region is both a blessing and a curse. While these bases extend Washington's reach, they also give the Iranian government a sense of encirclement that could actually spur the nation's development of nuclear weapons. In short, the current military situation isn't ideal for the United States:

■ Historian John Lewis Gaddis notes that the shaky intelligence that buttressed the case for war in Iraq has "diminished, in advance, the credibility of whatever future intelligence claims Bush might make."

■ Likely targets inside Iran are dispersed across the country – a country four times larger than Iraq – and many nuclear targets are simply unknown.

■ After two wars, two nation-building operations, two counter-insurgencies and an ongoing global hunt for al-Qaeda's remnants, the U.S. military is showing signs of wear and tear. For instance, a 2005 study conducted by *The Washington Post* revealed that 340,000 of the U.S. troops deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan have already served two or more overseas tours. Perhaps not coincidentally, the armed forces are falling short of quarterly recruiting targets. The *Post* also found that half of the Army and Marine equipment stored on ships has been exhausted. And the equipment being used in Iraq and Afghanistan is "wearing out at up to six times the normal rate."

Shock and Awe II. While the military option is not unthinkable, it is certainly unpalatable. And it may be unnecessary. As Gaddis observes, "Good strategists know when to stop shocking and awing."

Many who support Washington's twin efforts to dismantle the global infrastructure of terror and replace it with representative government have argued that using force to change regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq could have a carry-over effect elsewhere. In other words, regime change doesn't always have to come from the business end of an Abrams tank or Stealth bomber. Consider Libya's preemptive surrender of its WMD arsenal in late 2003, the democratic tremors spreading through Beirut, the retreat of Syria's thugs from Lebanon, the disruption and exposure of Khan's nuclear trade – even Iran's grudging nuclear talks with the European Union and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

This atmosphere offers the United States an opportunity to play both good cop and bad cop with Iran.

■ Washington has installed democratic governments on Iran's borders and branded Tehran as part of an "axis of evil." Europe and Japan, on the other hand, account for a third of Iran's imports and 45 percent of its exports. In short, there's no confusion about who plays good cop and bad cop in this equation. As the bad cop, the United States represents the very real threat of war. As good cops, Europe and Japan represent a pathway to normalized relations with Washington – and, perhaps most importantly, the *loss* of existing trade privileges. The United States can offer no such disincentive to Iran, should it continue down the nuclear path. But working together, Washington, Tokyo and the EU have significant leverage.

■ Perspective is everything, and from the mullahs' perspective perhaps the only thing more worrisome than having U.S. troops as neighbors is reading press reports about the Israeli military training in the Negev to attack Iranian nuclear sites. Here's where America can be the good cop: Israel has a no-nonsense attitude about nuclear weapons in the hands of its enemies, having leveled Saddam's Osirak nuclear plant in 1981. Washington has the ability to restrain Israel, having done so in 1991. Just as the Europeans can offer Tehran a choice between development and international isolation, the Americans can quietly offer Tehran a choice between voluntarily shutting down the plants and watching the Israeli air force do so with laser-guided bombs.

How could Washington deliver such a message? If Nixon could go to China, if Reagan could hold summits with the Evil Empire, why couldn't George W. Bush – architect of the war on terror – send an emissary to Tehran to lay out U.S. expectations and intentions? His father did no less with Saddam; his predecessor did no less with Milosevic. His own administration has done no less with Kim Jong Il. If the White House sent the right person – perhaps a retired general who knows the neighborhood, someone like Tommy Franks or Norman Schwarzkopf – no one in Iran would misunderstand or misread America's purpose.

A Free Iran. Of course, even if Tehran promised to forswear nuclear weapons, it would be imprudent to trust the mullahs and their hand-picked strongman, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, to keep such a promise. After all, they have already broken a number of promises, which is why America's long-term objective must be a democratic Iran.

Washington must encourage the Iranian people to pursue freedom. Toward that end, Radio Farda – a 24-hour, Farsi-language news service spon-

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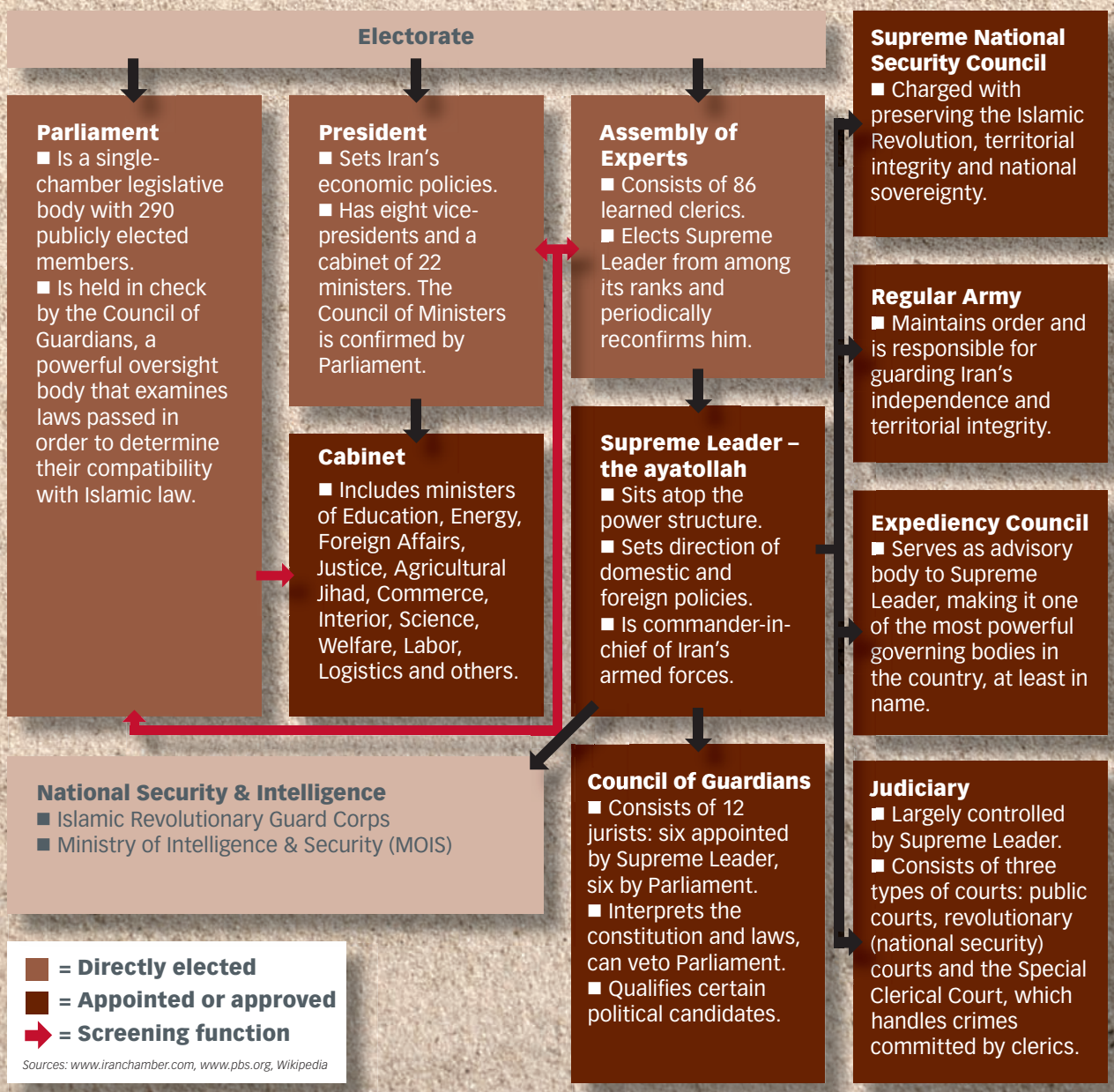
Who's the boss?

On the surface, the political structures of the United States and Iran appear similar. Both have popularly elected presidents, a law-making legislature and a powerful judiciary. One of the key differences is that Iran exercises an Islamic theocracy in which the ayatollah, whose position depends on reconfirmation by a panel of 86 clerics, has ultimate power.



sored by the United States – is soaking Iran with news about the democratic revolutions in Afghanistan, Lebanon and Iraq. In addition, Washington should prod Iran's newly democratic neighbors to promote freedom for Iran. It's hard to imagine a more effective ambassador for Islamic democracy than a Shiite member of Iraq's National Assembly or a Turkmen member of the Afghan government.

Of all the volatile ingredients floating around Iran, freedom may be the most powerful. After all, if Iran is free, the odds are good that it will also be nuclear-free.

Alan W. Dowd is a senior fellow at Sagamore Institute for Policy Research and a frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.

Article design: Doug Rollison

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re:	:	**Jointly Administered**
	:	**Case No. 02-10429 (JKF)**
KAISER ALUMINUM CORPORATION,	:	**Chapter 11**
a Delaware corporation, et al.,	:	
	:	**Hearing Date: Jan. 9-10, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.**
Debtors.	:	**Voting Deadline: 11/14/05 at 5:00 p.m.**
	:	**Objection Deadline: 11/14/05 at 5:00 p.m.**

NOTICE OF (A) DEADLINE FOR CASTING VOTES TO ACCEPT OR REJECT PROPOSED JOINT PLAN OF REORGANIZATION, (B) HEARING TO CONSIDER CONFIRMATION OF PROPOSED JOINT PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND (C) RELATED MATTERS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. On September 7, 2005, Kaiser Aluminum Corporation, Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation, Akron Holding Corporation, Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Investment, Inc., Kaiser Aluminium International, Inc., Kaiser Aluminum Properties, Inc., Kaiser Aluminum Technical Services, Inc., Kaiser Bellwood Corporation, Kaiser Micromill Holdings, LLC, Kaiser Texas Micromill Holdings, LLC, Kaiser Sierra Micromills, LLC, Kaiser Texas Sierra Micromills, LLC, Oxnard Forge Die Company, Inc., Alwis Leasing LLC, Kaiser Center, Inc., KAE Trading, Inc., Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Investment Limited (Canada), Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical of Canada Limited (Canada), Kaiser Center Properties, Kaiser Export Company and Texada Mines Ltd. (Canada) (collectively, the "Reorganizing Debtors"), twenty-one of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors"), filed: the Second Amended Joint Plan of Reorganization of Kaiser Aluminum Corporation, Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation and Certain of Their Debtor Affiliates (as it may be modified, the "Plan") and a related disclosure statement (the "Disclosure Statement"). Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein have the meanings given to them in the Plan.
2. On September 8, 2005, the Court entered an order (the "Disclosure Statement Order") approving the Disclosure Statement and certain related materials (collectively, the "Solicitation Materials") for the solicitation of votes to accept or reject the Plan. All Plan-related documents that have been filed with the Court, including the Disclosure Statement, are available via the Internet at www.deb.uscourts.gov, www.kaiseraluminum.com and www.loganandco.com. If you do not own or have access to a computer or the Internet, you may obtain a paper copy of the Solicitation Materials by sending a request, in writing, to Logan & Company, Inc., 546 Valley Road, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043 (Attn: Kaiser Aluminum Voting Department); facsimile: 973-509-3191; e-mail: kaiser@loganandco.com.
3. A hearing to consider the confirmation of the Plan (the "Confirmation Hearing") will be held before the Honorable Judith K. Fitzgerald, United States Bankruptcy Judge, in the Judge's courtroom at the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, 5414 U.S. Steel Tower, 600 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219 at 9:00 a.m. on January 9, 2006, to be continued on January 10, 2006 at 9:00 a.m., if necessary.
4. Pursuant to the Disclosure Statement Order, the Court approved certain procedures for tabulation of votes to accept or reject the Plan, which are attached to the Disclosure Statement as Exhibit III. Holders of claims against one of the Reorganizing Debtors as of August 29, 2005 (the voting record date as established in the Disclosure Statement Order) in a class entitled to vote on the Plan are entitled to receive a ballot for casting a vote on the Plan (a "Ballot"). For a vote to accept or reject the Plan to be counted, a Ballot must be completed and returned to the address indicated on the Ballot so that it is received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on November 14, 2005.
5. **The Plan proposes four channeling injunctions, applicable to all persons and entities, that permanently channel to one of four different trusts for resolution and payment all claims, remedies, liabilities or demands against one or more of the Debtors or certain other protected parties for death or personal injuries caused directly or indirectly by the presence of, or exposure to, asbestos, silica, noise or coal tar pitch volatiles, including any claims or demands for reimbursement, indemnification, subrogation or contribution. In addition, the Plan proposes an insurance entity injunction applicable to all persons and entities that, with certain exceptions set forth in the Plan, permanently enjoins the pursuit of any claim, demand or cause of action based upon, arising out of, or in any way connected with, any claim or demand channeled to a trust pursuant to the channeling injunctions referenced above against any insurance company or other entity that may have liability under an insurance policy that will provide funding for the resolution and payment of channeled claims and demands. Finally, the Plan proposes (i) an injunction that permanently enjoins the pursuit of any Claim against or Interest in the Reorganizing Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors or any of their respective property to the extent that such Claim or Interest has been discharged, released, waived, settled or deemed satisfied in accordance with the Plan (other than the enforcement of any right pursuant to the Plan to a distribution); and (ii) an injunction, applicable to all persons or entities, that permanently enjoins the pursuit of any claims, obligations, suits, judgments, damages, demands, debts, rights, causes of action or liabilities that are released pursuant to the Plan against any released entity or its property. For the specific terms and conditions of these injunctions and the precise scope of the claims and demands to be channeled, please refer to the specific terms of the Plan, which can be obtained as described above.**
6. The deadline for filing and serving objections, if any, to the confirmation of the Plan is 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on November 14, 2005. All objections must comply with the requirements set forth in paragraph 6 of the notice of the Confirmation Hearing appended to the front of the Disclosure Statement.

Dated: September 9, 2005

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ATTORNEYS FOR DEBTORS AND DEBTORS IN POSSESSION

Linda Howton and her son, 11-year-old Jacob, share an embrace at Linda's parents' farm in Minnesota. Linda's husband, Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jay Howton, has been deployed in Iraq since January.
Steve Niedorf

When Daddy's Deployed

Families share the challenge of single parenthood.

BY STEVE BROOKS

It's a typical Tuesday morning. Eleven-year-old Jacob Howton sits on a stool at the kitchen counter, eating a cinnamon roll and going over a school checklist with his mother, Linda, who stands by the oven. He has his books and his homework but still needs to brush his teeth. His sister, 13-year-old Emily, is late getting ready but finally grabs a cinnamon roll and joins Jacob at the counter. Linda checks to make sure her daughter's volleyball kneepads are packed. They are. But a form that needs to be signed was left over the weekend in Emily's locker, so Linda must go to school with her to sign it.

It's a normal day for a normal family living in a situation that's anything but normal.

In June 2004, Jay Howton, Linda's husband and Emily's and Jacob's father, was activated along with the rest of the Minnesota Army National Guard's 434th Main Support Battalion, Bravo Company, out of nearby Austin, Minn. After training at

THE SEVEN-PIECE DRUM kit fit effortlessly in the Montego. Eric's dream of converting the spare room into a drum room would not sit so easily with his wife.

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Linda Howton ties yellow troop-support ribbons to be displayed at her church.
Steve Niedorf

Fort Dix, the 434th deployed to Iraq, where it has been since January. The same deployment that activated Jay, a member of American Legion Post 146 in nearby Adams, Minn., also took Austin residents Eric Buntrock, a father of three young children, and Ryan Bell, a father of two. When the men were activated, they left behind devoted wives who must now care for their families essentially as single parents.

Linda Howton, Kathy Buntrock and Leni Bell are only three of thousands of men and women who daily face the challenge of running households alone while their spouses serve among more than 100,000 National Guardsmen and Reservists called to active duty throughout the world. They've said goodbye, uncertain of when, how or even if their loved ones will return. Despite that uncertainty, they strive to make life as normal as possible for themselves and their children. Since their husbands' mobilization, Linda, Kathy and Leni have formed a bond, one of mutual understanding and support that will last the rest of their lives. "Damn it," says Linda, 35, "this deployment is not going to break us."

On Guard at Home. Jay Howton came home in August for two weeks of leave. Linda has no idea when she'll see him again, nor does she try to guess.

"From my understanding, they can only be kept active for two years, so no matter how you look at it, we're on the downward slope," she says. "There are rumors about when they'll be back, but I can't afford to buy into them. I've taken a pessimistic view. If he comes home earlier, it's a nice surprise. And the kids understand that. They know that if you start believing 100 percent of what you hear, you're setting yourself up to be disappointed. We just wait and see. He'll be home when he comes home."

With Jay gone, Linda says, the Howtons have continued doing what they'd do if he was home. That's what they have to do. Jacob plays with his friends, helps his grandparents with chores, and starts at center on an Austin Youth Football League team. Emily is thinking about switching from oboe to flute, but at the moment, she's the starting setter on the Southland Middle School eighth-grade volleyball team and is coming off a straight-A grading period.

"We share this," Linda says. "We all miss him. It's tough when Dad has to come home to visit. It shouldn't be that way, but that's the way it is, and we have to deal with it. I'm lucky, because I've got two really great kids who understand what's going on. I have to be compassionate toward them because they're missing their dad, but at the same time, I'm missing my husband, my best friend, my favorite person in the whole world – basically, my other half. It's hard for me, too, and they know that."

On this particular early-autumn afternoon, the music of Midwestern

Americana plays in the air of the Howtons' small neighborhood in Rose Creek, Minn. The shrieks of children mix with the buzzing of a lawn mower. The sun casts shadows among the many trees surrounding the yard.

Normally, Mom might be inside as Dad finishes up the lawn, a complete Rockwellesque image. But Mom is inside, Dad is in Iraq, and Emily, with her braces and long curly hair, is at work behind the mower. She did the back yard today, while Jacob took the front. Labor distribution was up for negotiation, says Jacob, who stood on the deck leading to the dining room, debating his part.

"It's too big to do it all by myself," Jacob said with a grin that Linda admits probably gets him out of trouble at school. "I shouldn't have to do it all by myself."

"There are all sorts of things that I have to do by myself that I don't want to do," Linda replies. With that, the argument ends. Soon Jacob is out front, mowing strips back and forth. They're in this together. And they need each other's support, Jacob admits. "I have my breakdowns every now and then. The day Dad left, I promised I wouldn't cry. I knew I needed to be a man. And I didn't cry until Dad got on the bus and left. It's been rough, but I know I have a lot of support. I have a family who loves me and wants to help."

Emily says it's important to accept her emotions on bad days but knows not to dwell on what she cannot control. "Mom says she doesn't want us to keep everything all bottled up inside," she explains. "Sometimes you have bad days, and other days we have pretty normal lives. And that's how my dad would want us. He wouldn't want us to not go on. He'd want us to keep living our lives normally."

Sitting outside on a wooden deck, the mid-afternoon sun coming through the trees and casting a semi-shadow on a patio table, Linda reflects on the hand they've been dealt.

"I'll be glad when we're a normal, regular family again, when we don't have this deployment staring us in the face," she says. "But I know I'm lucky. I've got two great, amazing kids who understand what's going on and have been great through all this. We've always said that no matter what, we're going to make this a character-building experience. We're going to come out of this better than we went into it."

'The Best Things About Having a Dad'

Given an opportunity to write about their Iraq-deployed father, Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jay Howton, Emily and Jacob Howton didn't hesitate.

The Howtons received an offer for a book-building kit through the Minnesota National Guard's State Family Programs Office. After receiving it, the children put together a book and sent it back to LRL's "Books by You," which published it.

The book contains passages such as, "Our dad is really good at helping you with your problems when you don't know what to do."

"This was really fun to do," Jacob said.

Emily Howton, 13, helps make sure the family's back yard stays mowed during the deployment of her father, Jay, to Iraq. *Steve Brooks*

Kathy Buntrock serves up a snack for the children at her day-care business, Kathy's Bright Beginnings.
Steve Niedorf

A Full House. The situation is a bit different for 24-year-old Austin, Minn., resident Kathy Buntrock, mother of three and the wife of Sgt. Eric Buntrock. Kathy and Eric are the parents of Kaylee, 5, Lauren, 3, and Sophia, 2. Kathy now has the role of a single mother, but she refuses to let it get her down. "I miss him all the time, but I'm pretty tough," she says. "I hide it well. I have my breakdowns once in a while, but I get through them. That's just part of it. I miss him not being around and not having that support, but the four of us have learned to support each other pretty well. That's how it has to be for us."

A personal banker for Wells Fargo at the time of Eric's deployment, Kathy continued to work after Eric left but found she had a more important role at home: raising the children.

"I was working 45 hours a week, and I thought my kids needed me more," Kathy says. "When Eric was here, it seemed we always were working opposite shifts, so one of us was here with the kids. I think it got to be tough for the kids being in day care."

So Kathy decided to open her own day-care service, Kathy's Bright Beginnings, and became licensed in January. She normally has between eight and 10 children in her care, ranging from four months to 7 years old. Most days, she barely has time to sit down. Time is spent changing diapers and videos, switching TV stations to find "SpongeBob SquarePants," preparing mid-morning snacks and occasionally playing referee.

At one point in the day, Kathy sits in the middle of a circle, surrounded by the children. Some grip pacifiers in their mouths. Others clutch their blankets. All look intently at Kathy, hanging on her every word. She's reading from a book about manners starring Barney, the famous purple dinosaur.

"What do we ask when we want someone to help us?" Kathy asks the group, eliciting a collective "please" from the children. "And when someone helps us, what do we say?" "Thank you" is the answer, and Kathy follows with, "Let's try to use those all day."

A trip outside follows the daily reading time, and a game of "What time is it, Mr. Fox?" ensues. Bikes and Big Wheels are pulled out of a shed and ridden up and down the driveway and sidewalk. Then it's back inside for lunch and nap time.

"It can be tough at times, but I think I'm used to it," Kathy says of her daily routine. "Three is a lot of kids anyway, so having a few more isn't that big of a deal. And I love kids. That helps a lot."

Sophia, whose almost platinum-blonde hair is tightly cropped thanks to a recent "haircut" older sister Lauren attempted to give her, wasn't even 1 year old when Eric was activated. Kathy had concerns their daughter

might forget Dad. When Eric came home for two weeks of leave in July, those fears vanished. Ask Sophia now where Dad is, and she'll shyly respond, "In Iraq doing Army stuff."

"We use a Web cam a lot, so Sophia gets to see him now," Kathy says. "And before Eric left, we made a videotape of him and the girls sitting by the fireplace. He was reading a book to them. The first few months after he was gone, we watched that tape every night. When he came home in July, that time was amazing. I was a bit nervous, but we didn't treat each other as polite strangers. The kids recognized him, and the best part was when he got to the house and immediately started playing with the kids. Everything fell into place. It was like we just picked up where we left off. But then it was tough on Sophia after Eric left again. When she'd first get up in the morning, she'd scream, 'Daddy!' I'd go in there and she'd still want her daddy, and then she'd go into every room looking for him."

Shortly after 2 p.m., Kaylee arrives home from kindergarten. Today she's a bundle of energy, bouncing around the furniture before asking for popcorn, which she shares with Sophia and the older children. Kaylee is very proud of her father, she says, because "he helps other people. When he gets home, I am going to give him a big kiss and a hug, and then we can go play outside."

Routine chores, such as going to the grocery store or mowing the lawn, no longer are routine for Kathy. Relatives baby-sit the children to allow her a trip to the supermarket. A local church sometimes helps with the mowing.

"I hate to say I miss having a man around the house, but I really do," she says. "I miss the help. I miss Mr. Fix-It. Within the first month after he was gone, the washing machine broke down. Then the dryer went out. And a water line leading into the refrigerator leaked water in the basement. I miss him being here in those situations. But there's so much I miss about him. We have a different kind of bond now, but I miss the bond we had before: emotionally, physically, all of them."

Good Days, Bad Days. Leni Bell never thought her husband's enlistment in the National Guard would take him overseas. That changed when he was activated. A former U.S. Army Ranger and member of American Legion Post 91 in Austin, Minn., Staff Sgt. Ryan Bell temporarily left behind a job as a U.S. Postal Service carrier, as well as his wife and two young children: Lauryn, 5, and Kennedy, 2. Lauryn goes to kindergarten six hours a day; when Leni isn't working her part-time job as a travel agent, she stays home with Kennedy.

"With the Guard, I always thought Ryan would be stateside," says Leni, sitting on her living-room floor and trying to divide her attention between

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With a 24-hour nationwide toll-free telephone number, the Family Support Network can provide immediate assistance to families of deployed service personnel.

TS2, or Troop Support Services, combines three American Legion brochures filled with information on supporting the troops. The pocket-sized booklets are an information guide to Reconnect, Family Support Network and Welcome Home programs. Servicemembers should receive TS2 guides prior to deployment. One section of the guide is designed for servicemembers, while the other is for families.

TS2 pamphlets can be ordered online. **www.legion.org/support/**

With between eight and 10 children in her care, Kathy rarely has a moment to sit down and relax.
Steve Niedorf

Leni Bell's husband, Ryan, deployed in January, leaving behind his wife and two small children, including 2-year-old Kennedy. *Steve Brooks*

Kennedy and Ranger, a hyper 6-month-old black Labrador retriever. "It was sad when Ryan left. Kennedy had just been born. When Ryan came home in August and we went to pick him up at the airport, whenever Kennedy would see anyone in uniform she'd say, 'Daddy! Daddy!' But when Ryan tried to pick her up, she wouldn't let him. Once we got to the car, though, Kennedy was all over Ryan."

Kennedy, her blonde hair curling around a cherubic face, is in perpetual motion, modeling her sunglasses, attempting to turn on lamps, and applying lip gloss to herself, Leni and Jake, the family's 10-year-old, much more sedate black Lab. Later, Kennedy naps while Leni prepares dinner. Lauryn arrives home from kindergarten about 2:30 p.m., carrying a book bag almost her size. She, too, enters the room in motion, whirling around the kitchen and taking a quick ride on her wooden horse before settling in front of the television set. When her soldier father is mentioned, Lauryn runs to her mother, burying her head in Leni's lap. "I want my daddy," she cries. When Leni tells her he will be home soon, Lauryn coolly responds, "No, he won't."

"Some days she does really good, and sometimes it's really tough on her," Leni says. "If Lauryn's having a bad day, anything can upset her, and then she wants her daddy right away."

As Minnesota goes, late summer days don't come much better: 80 degrees with little humidity. The view of the sun is almost entirely unimpeded. Lauryn sits atop a slide in the back yard, silhouetted by the top of the adjoining swing set. She says she didn't recognize her dad when he came home in August. "He looked so skinny and had shorter hair. He's helping people now. I miss him. I want him to spend time with me."

"When Ryan told Lauryn he had to go, he told her he was going to be helping people," Leni explains. "We always try to say that to the girls. And when he was training in New Jersey, he sent her a big map of Iraq, and we cut out a picture of him and put it on the map where he is. Other than that, Lauryn doesn't know much about what Ryan is doing. But she knows he's a long ways away, and she probably thinks about that every day."

Steve Brooks is senior editor of The American Legion Magazine.

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The Last Full Measure

BY COL. BRETT WYRICK

Editor's note:

The following article is the product of a series of e-mails from Col. Brett Wyrick in Iraq to his father, a former fighter pilot, who shared the messages with a circle of friends and acquaintances.

Wyrick is commander of the 154th Medical Group, Hawaii Air National Guard, and recently served as a surgeon in Balad with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group.

BALAD, Iraq – The first rule of war is that young men and women die. The second rule of war is that surgeons cannot change the first rule.

We had already done around a dozen surgical cases in the morning and the early afternoon. The entire medical staff had a professional meeting to discuss the business of the hospital and the care and treatment of burns.

It is not boastful or arrogant when I tell you that some of the best surgeons in the world were

present. I have been to many institutions around the world, and at this point in time, with this level of experience, the best in the world are assembled here at Balad.

Lt. Col. Dave S., the "trauma czar" and a real American hero, is present. He has saved more people out here than anyone can imagine. The cast of characters includes two Air Force Academy graduates, Col. Joe W. and Maj. Max L. When you watch "ER" on television, the guys on the show are trying to be like Max: cool, methodical and professional. Max never misses anything on a trauma case because he sees everything on a patient and notes it the same way great NFL running backs see the entire playing field when they are carrying the ball.

Joe is an ear, nose and throat surgeon who is tenacious, bright and technically correct every single time. I mean every single time. The guy has a lower tolerance for variance than NASA. Lt. Col. Chris C. was the surgeon of the day (SOD), and I was the back-up SOD. Everyone else was there and available – as I said, the best in the world.

Corbis

As the meeting was breaking up, the call came in.

An American soldier had been injured in an IED (improvised explosive device) blast north of here, and he was in a bad way with head trauma. The specifics were fuzzy, but after three months here, what would need to be done was perfectly clear. The 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group readied for battle. All the surgeons started to gravitate toward the PLX, which is the surgeons' ready room and centrally located midway to the ER, OR and radiology.

The lab personnel checked precious units of blood, and the pharmacy made ready all the medications and drugs we would need for the upcoming fight. An operating room was cleared, and surgical instruments were laid out. The anesthesia circuits were switched over, and the gasses were checked and rechecked. An anesthesiologist and two nurse anesthetists went over the plan of action as the OR supervisor made the personnel assignments.

In the ER, bags of IV fluid were carefully hung, battery packs were checked, and the ER nursing supervisor looked over the equipment to make sure all was in working order and that the back-ups were ready just in case the primaries failed. The radiology techs moved forward in their lead gowns, bringing their portable machines like artillery men in days of old wheeling their cannons into place. Respiratory therapy set the mechanical ventilator and double-checked the oxygen. Gowns, gloves, boots and masks were donned by those who would directly be in the battle.

All of the resources — medical, mechanical and technological — that America can bring to the war were in place and ready, along with the best skills and talent, from techs to surgeons.

All of the resources – medical, mechanical and technological – that America can bring to the war were in place and ready, along with the best skills and talent, from techs to surgeons. The two neurosurgeons gathered by themselves to plan.

Lt. Col. A. is a neurosurgeon who still wears his pilot wings proudly. He used to be a T-38 instructor pilot, and some of the guys he trained to fly are now flying F-16s right here at Balad. He is good with his hands and calm under pressure. The other neurosurgeon is Maj. W., a gem of a surgeon who could play the guitar professionally if he was not dedicated to saving lives. A long time ago, at a place on the other side of the world called Oklahoma, I operated on his little brother after a car accident and helped to save his life.

The two neurosurgeons, Chris and I met for the briefing. Although I was the ranking officer of the group, Chris was the SOD and would be the flight lead. If this was a fighter sweep, all three of those guys would be weapons-school patch wearers.

The plan was for me and the ER folks to assess, treat and stabilize the patient as rapidly as possible to get the guy into the hands of the neurosurgeons. The intel was that this was an IED blast, and those rarely come with a single, isolated injury. It makes no sense to save the guy's brain if you have not saved the heart pump that brings the oxygenated blood to the brain. With this kind of trauma, you must be deliberate and methodical, and you must be deliberate and methodical in a pretty damn big hurry.

All was ready, and we did not have to wait very long. The approaching rotors of a Black Hawk were heard, and Chris and I moved forward to the ER, followed by several sets of surgeons' eyes as we went. We have also learned not to clog up the ER with surgeons giving orders. One guy runs the code, and the rest follow his instructions or stay out of the way until they are needed.

They wheeled the soldier into the ER on a NATO gurney shortly after the chopper touched down. One look at the PJs' faces told me the situation was grim. Their young faces were drawn and tight, and they moved with a sense of directed urgency. They did not even need to speak because their eyes were pleading with us to hurry. And hurry we did.

All was ready, and we did not have to wait very long. The approaching rotors of a Black Hawk were heard, and Chris and I moved forward to the ER, followed by several sets of surgeons' eyes as we went.

In a flurry of activity that would seem like chaos to the uninitiated, many things happened simultaneously. Max and I received the patient as Chris watched over the shoulder to pick out anything that might be overlooked. An initial survey indicated a young soldier with a wound to the head and several other obvious lacerations on the extremities.

Max called out the injuries as they were found, and one of the techs wrote them down. The C-collar was checked, and the chest was auscultated as the ET tube was switched to the ventilator. Chris took the history from the PJs because the patient was not conscious. All the wounds were examined, and the dressings were removed except for the one on the head.

The patient was rolled onto his side while his neck was stabilized by my hands, and Max examined the back side, from the toes to the head. When we rolled the patient back over, it was onto an X-ray plate that would allow us to immediately take the chest X-ray. The first set of vitals revealed a low blood pressure. Fluid would need to be given, and it appeared as though the peripheral vascular system was on the verge of collapse.

I called the move as experienced hands rolled him again for the final survey of the back and flanks and the X-ray plate was removed and sent for development. As we positioned him for the next part of the trauma examination, I noted that the hands laid on this young man were black, white, Hispanic, Asian, American Indian, Australian, Army, Air Force, Marine, man, woman, young and older: a true cross-section of our effort here in Iraq.

The patient needed fluid resuscitation fast, and there were other things yet to be done. Chris watched the initial survey and the secondary survey with a situational awareness that comes from competence and experience. Chris is never flustered, never out of ideas, and his pulse is never above 50.

With a steady, calm and reassuring voice, he directed the next steps to be taken. I moved down to the chest to start a central line. Max began an ultrasonic evaluation of the abdomen and pelvis. The X-rays and ultrasound examination were reviewed as I sewed the line in place, and it was clear to Chris that the young soldier's head was the only apparent life-threatening injury.

The two neurosurgeons came forward and removed the gauze covering the soldier's wounded head. Everyone's heart sank as we saw the blossom of red blood spreading out from shredded white and gray matter of the brain. Experience told all the surgeons present there was no way to survive such an injury, and this was one battle the medical group was going to lose. But he was American, and it was not time to quit – yet.

Gentle pressure was applied over the wound, and the patient went directly to the CT scanner as drugs and fluids were pumped into the line to keep his heart and lungs functioning in a fading hope to restore the brain. The time elapsed from his arrival in the ER to the time he was in the CT scanner was five minutes.

The CT scan confirmed what we had feared. The wounds to the brain were horrific and mortal, and there was no way on earth to replace the volume of tissue that had been blasted away by the explosion. The neurosurgeons looked at the scan. They looked a second time. Then they re-examined the patient to confirm once again.

The OR crew waited anxiously outside the doors of radiology in the hope they would be utilized, but Chris, Lt. Cols. A. and S., and Maj. W. all agreed: there was no brain activity whatsoever. The chaplain came to pray and, reluctantly, the vent was turned from full mechanical ventilation to flow-by. The patient had no hint of respiratory activity, his heart that had beaten so strongly earlier in the day ceased to beat forever, and he was pronounced dead.

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The pumps were turned off; the machines were stopped, and the IVs were discontinued. Respectful quiet remained, and it was time to get ready for the next round of casualties. The techs and nurses gently moved the body over to the back of the ER to await mortuary services. And everyone agreed there was nothing more we could have done.

When it was quiet, there was time to really look at the young soldier and see him as he was: young, probably in his late teens, with not an ounce of fat anywhere. His muscles were powerful and well defined, and in death, his face was pleasant and calm.

I am always surprised that anyone still has tears to shed here at Balad but thank God they still do. The nurses and techs continued to care for him and do what they could. Not all the tubes and catheters can be removed because there is always a forensic investigation to be done at Dover AFB, but the nurses took out the lines they could. Fresh bandages were placed over the wounds, and the blood clots were washed from his hair as his wound was covered once more. His hands and feet were washed with care. A broken toenail was trimmed, and he was silently placed in the body bag when mortuary services arrived as gently as if they were tucking him into bed.

Later that night was patriot detail – our last goodbye for an American hero. All the volunteers gathered at base ops after midnight under a three-quarter moon that was partially hidden by high, thin clouds. There was only silence as the chief master sergeant gave the detail its instructions. Soldiers, airmen and Marines, colonels, privates and sergeants, pilots, gunners, mechanics, surgeons and clerks all marched out side by side to the back of the waiting transport. Presently, the flag-draped coffin was carried through the cordon as military salutes were rendered.

The detail marched back from the flight line, and slowly the doors of the big transport were secured. The chaplain offered prayers for anyone who wanted to participate, and then the group broke up as the people started to move away into the darkness. The big engines on the transport fired up, and the ground rumbled for miles as it took the runway. His duty was done – he had given the last full measure, and he was on his way home.

I am always surprised that anyone still has tears to shed here at Balad but thank God they still do.

The first rule of war is that young men and women die. The second rule of war is that surgeons cannot change the first rule. I think the third rule of war should be that those who have given their all for our freedom are never forgotten, and they are always honored.

I wish there was not a war, and I wish our young people did not have to fight and die. But I cannot wish away evil men like bin Laden and al-Zarqawi. These men are not wayward children who have gone astray; they are not great men who are simply misunderstood. They are cold-blooded killers, and they will kill you, me and everyone we love and hold dear if we do not kill them first. You cannot reason with these people. You cannot negotiate with them. And this war will not be over until they are dead. That is the ugly, awful and brutal truth.

AP

I wish the situation was different, but it is not. Americans have two choices. They can run from the threat, deny it exists, candy-coat it, debate it and hope it goes away. And then, Americans will be fair game around the world and slaughtered by the thousands for the sheep they have become.

Our second choice is to crush these evil men where they live and for us to have the political will and courage to finish what we came over here to do. The last thing we need here in Iraq is an exit strategy or some damn time table for withdrawal. Thank God there was no timetable for withdrawal after the Battle of the Bulge or Iwo Jima. Thank God there was no exit strategy at Valley Forge. Freedom is not easy, and it comes with a terrible price. Yesterday, I saw the bill.

Article design: Doug Rollison

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A Calling to Care

Matt Hall

I would especially like to talk to those nurses who have any doubts, who wondered if it was right for them to save us ... if I am reaching any of you out there, I just want you to know one thing: our lives were irrevocably changed by the presence of those military nurses. You did something that no one else could do. And I swear to you that we will never ever ever forget you.

– ***B.T. Collins,*** a former Green Beret seriously injured in the Vietnam War, in a letter to the editor published in the November/December 1988 *California Nursing Review*

She didn't know it at the time, but Carolyn Tanaka's life – and mission in it – would be defined by one unforgettable encounter.

That Carolyn Tanaka, daughter of Japanese-Americans detained in an internment camp during World War II, ever wanted to serve a day in the U.S. military might seem unlikely. She and her family were taken out of their California home and placed in an internment camp in Arizona following the attack on Pearl Harbor. There, they waited out World War II. When they returned, they found their home burned to the ground and the challenge of rebuilding their lives ahead of them. Carolyn completed school and pursued a career in nursing. She went to work in a hospital emergency room and spent eight years developing skills that would be vital later, after she volunteered for duty in the Vietnam War.

"All my male relatives joined the service to do their part for their country, and I felt I had a skill that was needed in Vietnam, so it was my duty to go as well," Tanaka said.

It was not easy for her to find a way to the war. She thought her mother wouldn't approve of her only daughter joining the military, so she inter-

SEE **TANAKA**, PAGE **34**

The combat nurse holds a place of immeasurable honor among those whose lives or limbs were saved under the triage tents of war. It is a calling few can fulfill, one that has been vital to U.S. military success and survival since the Revolutionary War. And it's a role that continues to evolve as operations in Iraq and Afghanistan produce new types of battlefield injuries. Each war presents unprecedented medical challenges and lessons for the future, but the common language across the generations is that of compassion, a permanent commitment to the care of others. Thousands of military nurses have served our nation in recent years. They continue to serve today. And their legacy is written in the scars of veterans, young and old, whose lives one moment hinged on a nurse's skill. One such story is that of Carolyn Tanaka and Rory Bailey.

Rory Bailey, right, remembers nothing of the nurse who saved his life in Vietnam. But Carolyn Tanaka could not forget. They were reunited 25 years later. *Time & Life Collection/Getty*

A Vietnam veteran saved by nurses has a message for the newly wounded.

Rory Bailey of Valparaiso, Ind., came home from the Vietnam War nearly 40 years ago with a face so disfigured he generated national attention and was profiled in *People* magazine – a breathing icon for the life-changing consequences of war. He was hit mere days after arriving in theater. Of the time that followed, when nurse Carolyn Tanaka cared for him, he remembers little. But she never forgot. She sought him out, and they met in 1993 at the dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington. Bailey recently spoke with *The American Legion Magazine.*

Q: *What do you recall about the day you were wounded?*
A: The only thing I remember of the incident was sitting up, and I saw greenery. I put my left hand on my right elbow, I don't know why, but when I pulled it away, I saw that my first three fingers were darker than the rest with blood, and I said, "God help me. I'm hit." I then heard someone else say, "Let's get him. He looks the worst." I didn't know if they were talking about me or not. I must've passed out then. I might've understood help was on its way, so my end of the deal was over. I

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TANAKA, FROM PAGE **33**
viewed with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in response to its request for volunteer nurses. USAID advised Tanaka to pursue a master's degree and midwifery certificate, at which point they would send her overseas but could not guarantee placement in Vietnam. She declined the proposal and turned to the Air Force, which only offered in-country placement during a second tour of duty. Tanaka wasn't interested in waiting four years to go where the action was, where her skills from eight years as an emergency-room nurse could best be used.

In 1966, within months of enlisting in the Army Nurse Corps, Tanaka was treating patients as a staff nurse for the newly built 24th Evacuation Hospital in Long Binh, beginning an 18-month tour of Vietnam War duty.

From there, she saved and changed numerous lives, but one experience in particular made a permanent impact on her own life. Her care for a particular soldier brought her national acclaim and made her a leading national voice on the role of women in the military. She has spoken and raised funds for the Vietnam Women's Memorial and now speaks primarily to student audiences about her war experience.

She recently took time to speak with *The American Legion Magazine.*

Q: *What were the working conditions like for a nurse serving in Vietnam?*
A: The Army had 22 hospitals in Vietnam, so they required a high number of volunteer nurses. In order to staff the hospitals, they had to send young nursing-school graduates with less than one year of experience. To send someone that inexperienced to a war zone was extremely difficult on that young nurse. The triage, or sorting of patients, was your primary job, and the difficulty in determining which injuries were most urgent became a challenge. For the inexperienced, it was difficult to see the subtleties; a head wound gushing blood, well, you can see that, but the person with internal injuries lying there quietly might actually need attention first. It took a more experienced nurse, like myself, to recognize that and act upon it.

When I became head nurse, I felt a 24-hour responsibility. Shifts didn't matter. When I heard a chopper land, I timed how long it was on the ground, estimating how many patients were being unloaded. Those on duty at the

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BAILEY, FROM PAGE **33**
must have had that understanding. As for who they were actually looking at or going for, I have no idea. That's it, the end of my memories of that day.

Q: *Were you surprised that your nurse in Vietnam was so persistent in finding you later?*
A: Well, it was a shock to me. I had no idea who took care of me in Vietnam. As far as I'm concerned, if she said she was the nurse who cared for me, she must have some way of knowing. With my type of facial injury, I guess I could see that she would remember that.

Q: *How did Tanaka's care affect your appreciation of nurses?*
A: Not just her, but all the nurses who have helped me. I hold nurses in very high regard. They are superior people.

Q: *Do you feel connection to the injured soldiers returning from Iraq?*
A: Some. Not as much as probably I should. I guess basically because I wasn't in the combat zone long enough. Nine days is not long.

Q: *What are your memories of recovery?*
A: I remember, I think it was Japan, a little space of time, maybe three seconds, a minute at most, and that was all. And then I remember a plane landing in Anchorage. I suspect I was in a drug-induced coma. I didn't become aware of things until the first of June. My injury had happened May 5. When the sedation wore off, I touched my face and felt bandages. But I could feel the bed rails, feel the table next to me. I was on my way to the nurse's station, and I got halfway there before I realized, "I can't see." But I said to myself that I had got this far, so I don't really need to see, do I?

Q: *Your nurse was worried you'd be upset with her for saving your life and sending you home to years of surgeries and difficulty.*
A: She did what she thought she should. I know my face is messed up. My taste buds are almost gone. My sense of smell is not good. And I'm blind. But my brain wasn't damaged. That's the most important thing.

Q: *What is your advice to wounded soldiers coming home from Iraq?*
A: To soldiers returning, I would say keep on trucking. Do the best you can. Find different ways of doing it. Accept the lot you've got.

– Brandy Ballenger

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TANAKA, FROM PAGE **34**

hospital didn't have time to pick up a phone and call for help, so if the chopper was on the ground long enough to unload eight to 10 people, I got dressed and went into work.

You are so busy caring for the wounded, you don't have time to dwell on the events as they are occurring. You just stuff those feelings down deep inside. After work, many would go to the officers' club and get stinking drunk just to give themselves the courage to face the next day.

Q: *How did injuries and wounds encountered in Vietnam differ from those you'd treated as an emergency-room nurse?*
A: In the states, if a patient had been shot, it would go straight through the body, or at least the damage is (limited) to what that one bullet will do. But the weapons of war are designed to mutilate the human body. They explode inside the body and affect multiple organ systems. Injuries were much more severe than I had encountered stateside.

Q: *The name "Rory Bailey" never appeared on a single page of the diary you kept during your service in the Vietnam War. But you never forgot him, or the life-changing experience the two of you shared. What do you remember about the encounter with him?*
A: I was on duty as head nurse the day they brought Rory Bailey into my hospital. I stood over the GI and thought to myself, "This man has no face." The younger nurses could not stand to look at him, much less care for him. So I, as the most senior nurse, took the responsibility.

My initial reaction upon seeing him was that he must have been a handsome young man. I came to that conclusion when I put my hand on his shoulder. I felt how muscular he was and assumed he had been an athlete in his high school days. I could feel that he had been a fine-looking young man.

For the 15 minutes he was in the emergency room, I suctioned him to keep him from drowning in his own secretions.

Q: *What happened to Bailey?*
A: With his type of injury I expected him to be (evacuated) to Japan the next morning, so I didn't go ward to ward looking for him. It wasn't until my daughter saw an article in *People* magazine featuring Rory that I knew

SEE **TANAKA**, PAGE **38**

Diane Evans led the campaign for a Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington to ensure female veterans receive the recognition they deserve. *Time & Life Collection/Getty*

'Behind the scenes, never behind the lines'

Female veterans like Carolyn Tanaka are an inspiration to Diane Evans, founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project. Evans, who served in the Army Nurse Corps from 1966 to 1972 – including a year in-country during the war – witnessed firsthand the differences she and thousands of other nurses made in the lives of wounded soldiers. Those experiences inspired her to launch a nonprofit organization that led to the dedication of a Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington on Nov. 11, 1993. The project did not end there, eventually becoming a resource to improve public awareness of the contributions women made during the war and to provide support for veterans. In 2002, the project became known as the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation. Evans recently spoke with *The American Legion Magazine*.

Q: *How has combat nursing evolved through history?*
A: Combat nursing began with the Revolution – the birth of our nation, when women who were not allowed to be in the military served to help the wounded during wartime. But it wasn't until the founding of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901 that women officially became part of the military. They started serving in uniform in World War I. We have evolved throughout history on all levels of nursing. As medicine has evolved, so has nursing. Different technology and types of wartime medical practices have evolved.

Q: *What are the most significant recent developments in that evolution?*
A: The difference with women in Iraq and women in Desert Storm is that women are now issued weapons. Before, we could be shot at, but we couldn't shoot back. By and large, weapons were not issued to the nurses in Vietnam.

Q: *How do the injuries suffered by troops in Iraq differ from those you treated in Vietnam?*

SEE **EVANS**, PAGE **38**

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TANAKA, FROM PAGE **36**
whether or not he had survived, 20 years later. I'm sure I saw other soldiers and civilians with bad facial injuries, but there was a connection between he and I. It was an experience I could never forget.

Q: *How did you reconnect with Bailey?*
A: When I became involved in veterans affairs locally and started giving speeches, I went back to my diary for information about patients I took care of. I noticed that I did not record anything in my diary that would leave a painful memory, so Rory is not in my diary. I wrote about statistics, not specifics. But I didn't need a written record to remember him.

(Bailey) was featured in *People* for some time, but I was not ready to go look for him until I became involved with the Vietnam Women's Memorial project. Before that, I didn't think I wanted anything more to do with the military. I felt I had done my duty to my country, and that was that.

Once I started to look for him, I was pretty persistent. He had stood out in my mind. He actually stayed in our hospital for two weeks. But I didn't find that out until 1993, when we were reunited at our memorial.

(Before the reunion) we corresponded for four years, first through phone conversations and tape-recorded letters because he could hear but couldn't see. Once I found out his brother was living with him and would read him letters, I began writing.

Until we could meet at the wall, until I could see him, I wasn't sure how he would feel about me. After 25 years and 200 reconstructive surgeries, I wasn't sure if he would thank me for saving him.

When we embraced there at the memorial, he whispered in my ear, "Thank you for being there." And that just lifted all feelings of guilt I had carried.

Q: *What would you say to today's servicemembers who find themselves in situations similar to Rory Bailey's?*
A: It's going to take a long recovery period, especially for those suffering from PTSD problems. That doesn't heal overnight. But the main thing is to talk about it and not keep it all bottled up inside of you. Join veterans organizations. Share with other veterans. None of us are alone.

– Brandy Ballenger

EVANS, FROM PAGE **36**
A: In Vietnam, we all had flak jackets that were hot and heavy. They weren't efficient, so soldiers wouldn't wear them at all or wouldn't keep them zipped up. Paraphernalia that a soldier carries and wears has improved, yet they're dying in great numbers. Their wounds are different in Iraq because of the equipment and clothing soldiers are wearing. It seems like so many of their injuries are to their legs and their heads. In Vietnam, high-velocity torso and facial injuries were common. They would come in with battlefield amputations, lost limbs – both arms and both legs gone.

Q: *How many nurses actually made it in-country?*
A: Two-hundred and sixty-five thousand women served around the world over the 10-year period of Vietnam. The number of women actually in Vietnam was about 10,000. Almost 90 percent of the women in Vietnam were nurses. If you weren't a nurse, your chances of going in-country were slim.

Q: *What is your most vivid memory from the war?*
A: When the red-alert siren went on, the first thing you did was grab your helmet and flak jacket. You rushed to take care of the patients, to get them under their beds, throw mattresses on top of them – do whatever so those patients wouldn't get hurt a second time. In this specific instance, I had seriously ill patients but also many very sick Montagnard children who had napalm burns. When the noise is going on around you, the men, they know what to do. They hit the floor. The really sick ones could not do that. They couldn't move. I grabbed mattresses to cover them as fast as I could. This one little girl, she was burned so badly you couldn't touch her. I didn't think I could get her under the bed. She was crying, screaming in terror. I looked around and everyone else was taken care of, so I ran over to her, and I stood there. I just held her hand in the midst of the chaos around me.

Q: *What kind of recognition did Vietnam War nurses receive at the time?*
A: We were behind the scenes, but we were never behind the lines. We were not shown on the 6 o'clock news. Nurses doing their jobs weren't newsworthy. We protected our soldiers … and our patients before we thought about protecting ourselves. The nurses' mission in Vietnam was to preserve the fighting strength. We knew what our mission was, and we were trained to do it. If they made it to our emergency rooms, we saved them.

– Brandy Ballenger

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War, Values and Veterans

National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus talks with President Bush, who called to congratulate The American Legion National Convention for adopting Resolution 169 in support of the war against terrorism. *James V. Carroll*

The following are summaries of resolutions passed at the 87th National Convention of The American Legion in Honolulu. For the full text, contact the Legion Library at ***(317) 630-1366,*** *e-mail* ***library@legion.org*** *or visit the Web site at* ***www.legion.org.*** *Send a written request for a booklet of all approved resolutions to The Library, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.*

AMERICANISM

Joseph E. Caouette Jr. (NH), chairman

1 Urges Congress to implement an immigration-reform policy that will secure U.S. borders against individuals attempting illegal entry.

165 Encourages Congress to enact measures to enforce the Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance

Tom Strattman

and reject dual allegiances.

166 Opposes DoD policies prohibiting chartering of Boy Scout units by components of the U.S. Armed Forces and use of DoD installations worldwide by Boy Scouts of America.

ECONOMICS

James Koutz (IN), chairman

8 Supports reinstatement of funding for the Veterans Upward Bound education programs.

54 Calls for a federal income-tax exemption for wartime veterans when cashing U.S. savings bonds owned or later purchased and that the exemption be passed on only to immediate family members.

BY JOHN RAUGHTER

Always the cavalryman, Thomas P. Cadmus was not content to simply ride off into the Hawaiian sunset when he relinquished command of The American Legion.

Whether it's passing a constitutional amendment to protect the flag from desecration or passing mandatory funding for VA health care, Cadmus reminded Legionnaires that much work still needs to be done. "We must never let our government lose sight of the fact that caring for our veterans is the ongoing cost of war," he said at the 87th National Convention in Honolulu.

Still, much has been accomplished during Cadmus' year as national commander. He cited a long list of Legion victories under his command without ever saying "I." "We defeated a legislative initiative to create an annual VA enrollment fee of $250," Cadmus said. "We defeated a legislative initiative to significantly limit the per-diem rate paid to state veterans homes. Most importantly, we fought for, and won, a $1.5 billion emergency supplemental for the VA medical budget this year."

Excitement generated throughout the convention hall when delegates unanimously passed Resolution No. 169, "Support for the War on Terrorism." The measure states, in part, "that The American Legion urges all Americans and freedom-loving peoples everywhere to stand united in their global war on terrorism, and united in their support of the troops who are engaged in protecting our values and way of life." The resolution also authorizes the national commander to use whatever means are at his disposal "to disseminate accurate information about this war on terrorism, and to engage whatever means necessary to ensure the united support of the American people."

"We had hoped that the lessons learned from the Vietnam War would be clear to our fellow citizens," Cadmus said. "Public protests against the war here at home while our young men and women are in harm's way on the other side of the globe only provide aid and comfort to our enemies.

"No one respects the right to protest more than one who has fought for it," he added. "But we hope that Americans will present their views in correspondence to their elected officials rather than by public media events guaranteed to be picked up and used as tools of encouragement by our enemies. It would be tragic if the freedoms our veterans fought so valiantly to protect would be used against their successors today as they battle terrorists bent on our destruction. Let's not repeat the mistakes of our past."

Important Phone Call. Convention proceedings were briefly interrupted Aug. 24, as Cadmus accepted a phone call while onstage. Thanks to modern technology, the caller was placed on a speaker phone so his comments could be heard by the entire audience. From Air Force One, it was President Bush.

"On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank the delegates assembled and their family members particularly for that strong resolution you passed in support of our troops," Bush said. "I firmly believe in the decision I made. The action that we have taken will make this world a more peaceful place."

The president also spoke to the hall a day earlier by video. "Since its founding in 1919, the Legion has stood firm in its devotion to God and country, and your services and sacrifices earned our gratitude for all time. The members of The American Legion have risked their lives to protect our freedom. You understand the sacrifices our servicemen and women are making in today's war on terror. You also know the burdens their loved ones face, and I appreciate the assistance The American Legion provides to our nation's military families," he said. "Your Family Support Network works with local posts to help those who need assistance with grocery shopping, child care and routine expenses, and your American Legacy Scholarship Fund offers college assistance to children of military personnel killed on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001. I thank you for being there for families who stand behind our troops. Our men and women in uniform serve under a proud flag. I appreciate your leadership with the Citizens Flag Alliance, and I join you in supporting a constitutional amendment to protect the flag from desecration."

James V. Carroll

An overdue welcome home

More than 250 Legionnaires witnessed a repatriation ceremony for three U.S. servicemen killed during World War II and Vietnam. The ceremonies were conducted at Hickam Air Force Base on Aug. 19. After the remains are positively identified, they will be transported home for interment with military honors.

Bush said he is committed to a strong VA. "Since I took office we have increased spending for veterans by $24 billion, an increase of 53 percent. Because of that, veterans are now receiving better health care, and disability claims are processed more quickly."

He linked veterans benefits with the war on terrorism. "Our nation has no greater responsibility than stopping terrorists from launching deadly

91 Supports legislation establishing a new GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century.

107 Supports continuation and expansion of the president's National Hire Veterans Committee.

108 Seeks legislation eliminating regional offices of the Veterans Employment and Training Service while returning the organization to its original purpose of direct oversight services to veterans programs.

111 Seeks and supports legislation amending Title 38, U.S. Code, requiring Veterans Employment and Training Service regional administrators, state directors, assistant state directors and other professional staff to be veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.

112 Opposes transfer of the Veterans Employment and Training Service from the Department of Labor to VA.

140 Calls for Congress to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for qualified veterans definition.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Michael D. Helm (NE), chairman

3 Supports selling the latest U.S. weapon systems to Taiwan for its self-defense.

4 Urges the United States to call on North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons program and to cease testing, developing, deploying and exporting weapons of mass destruction.

40 Supports bipartisan policies and legislation providing U.S. funding for programs providing economic, political and social development in Africa.

41 Supports State Department funding for international development.

42 Urges the president to appoint a qualified, high-level policy person not currently working within the U.S. government to serve as U.S. chairman of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs.

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attacks. To accomplish this vital mission we have a comprehensive strategy to protect the homeland and to improve our intelligence so we can uncover terrorist plots before they unfold. And we're staying on the offense against the terrorists by finding the enemy in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere so we do not have to face them at home. We will stay and fight against the forces of terror until the fighting is done. As we fight the terrorists, we will work to spread the hope of freedom across the Middle East. Afghan, Palestinian, Iraqi and Lebanese citizens are now holding free elections. Free societies are peaceful societies. And the war on terror will have difficult moments along the path of victory, yet the outcome is assured because our freedom is in the best hands. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guard are risking their lives to bring security to our citizens and peace to the world. And as they fight, they are inspired by The American Legion's example of selfless service and courage under fire. Americans are grateful. And so is your commander in chief."

War on Terrorism. Delegates also heard an address from Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who accepted The American Legion's Distinguished Service Award. He compared the current war to the American Revolution.

"Unlike the circumstances that George Washington found himself in, our troops are the best-trained, the best-equipped and most professional force on the planet. In my view, this war threatens the very freedoms that our troops fought for so long ago in 1776," Myers said. "It's a tough war in every respect, in part because there are no front lines. The enemy is very adaptable and changing their tactics all the time. Success is hard to define and hard to measure. But it's vital for America to stay resolved, to stay committed and to be patient. Resolve or will is ultimately what will decide whether we defeat violent extremism and terrorism, or whether we give in to it."

Myers, a Vietnam War veteran, reminded delegates that veterans were not always well-received when returning home. "I'm sure that our Korean and Vietnam veterans – all our veterans – are a major reason why today our troops get the kind of support that they get. You made up your minds that they would be treated the way you should have been treated. And so four years into this war against terrorism, which I believe will continue to be challenging for some time to come, I'm encouraged that the country's support is still very strong. So, let me ask you to please keep doing what you're doing: supporting our troops, our veterans and their families, mentoring America's youth so they become good citizens, and serving as role models for future generations of servicemen and women."

Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, receives The American Legion Distinguished Service Award from Commander Cadmus. *Tom Strattman*

Legion on Parade

TOP: SAL Air Capitol Squadron 401, Wichita, Kan., displays the colors. *James V. Carroll*

ABOVE: Commander Cadmus walks the parade route, waving to the thousands in attendance. *Tom Strattman*

TOP LEFT: A youngster salutes the colors overwhelmingly evident in the two-hour parade. *James V. Carroll*

ABOVE LEFT: Jerrick Johnson, driver of the Legion's "Freedom Car," rode in the parade and manned a booth promoting Legion Racing memorabilia. *Tom Strattman*

TOP RIGHT: Youngsters ride atop one of the Hawaii Military Vehicle Preservation Association vintage vehicles. *James V. Carroll*

ABOVE RIGHT: The U.S. Army Marching Band passes the reviewing stand. *James V. Carroll*

Cadmus reminded the Legion family of the purpose of the war on terrorism. "More than 3,000 innocent civilians, military and public-service first-responders perished in the most concentrated act of evil ever launched against America. My most cherished memories of this past year as your national commander are of those brave young Americans who continue to go in harm's way in our behalf. Our military fighting men and women donned our uniforms and proudly continue the legacy of service to country. Many made the ultimate sacrifice. Many more returned with wounds and scars that will never heal. Still others continue to join. Their goal: to wipe out the insidious evil of terrorism that threatens our very way of life."

A Strong VA. The Honolulu gathering was the first American Legion national convention for new VA Secretary Jim Nicholson. "There is an old saying that a friend is someone who knows all about you and likes you anyway," said Nicholson, a retired Army colonel. "The American Legion and VA are old friends – friends who know a great deal about each other and still like and respect each other. The Legion has always been an advocate for not only veterans but also VA itself. I may be new to this relationship, but I know this: we at VA only succeed if we work hand in hand with The American Legion and other veterans service organizations."

Nicholson promised to consider the Legion's concerns about his department. "I know The

American Legion is concerned about the status of our budget for fiscal 2006 and beyond. Your members are concerned about timely access for health care and the growing workload at our facilities. But I know that you want the disparity in disability claims reduced and our national cemeteries maintained. I hear you, I agree, and I am taking action.

VA Secretary Jim Nicholson

"Today's VA is producing the highest quality care in the country. We measure ourselves by the kinds of things that matter to most veterans: access to health care, how satisfied are they with the care, and how well VA restores them to their highest level of functioning … Our computerized patient-record system is one-of-a-kind in the world. Today, one of five tests given in a (non-VA) hospital has to be repeated because they lose the results. That does not happen in the VA hospital system."

But more needs to be done, said Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii. A Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, Inouye received the James V. Day "Good Guy" Award at the Past Department Commanders Luncheon. "As a veteran, I don't think we do enough for veterans," he said. "I was surprised we even had to debate adding $1.5 billion in veterans health care when you have a shortage of facilities and care. I pledge to you my support in the United States Senate. I will be a good guy."

Former Miss America Heather French Henry urged Legionnaires to be screened for prostate cancer. "We want you around to spread your patriotism to your children and grandchildren. Early detection is how you beat this disease," she said.

Henry, the daughter of a disabled Marine Corps veteran, spoke often about veterans issues during her reign as Miss America in 2000. "Too many young children don't know what a veteran is, or the sacrifices that you have made. I go to schools and ask children, and they think a veteran is a doctor who takes care of animals. All you veterans out there should get involved in your school systems and teach the children that a veteran is someone who has served this country. There are people currently serving this country who will be veterans. If we can teach them young, they will carry that patriotism the rest of their lives."

Flag Amendment Close. Citizens Flag Alliance Chairman Patrick H. Brady, a retired major general and Medal of Honor recipient, told the delegation he is optimistic that the Senate will finally pass the flag-protection amendment. The measure, S.J. Res. 12, states, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

"We have never been closer to victory," Brady said. "There has not been a vote in the Senate since 9/11. A lot has changed since then that makes it more difficult to vote against the flag."

123 Calls for full compliance of the mandates of the Geneva Convention.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Herman G. Harrington (NY), chairman

139 Urges Congress to amend the Equal Access to Justice Act or any other federal statute in lawsuits brought under the Establishment Clause and to limit remedies to declaratory and injunctive relief only.

168 Expresses appreciation to host city of Honolulu for supporting the 87th National Convention.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Clarence E. Hill (FL), chairman

5 Commends the efforts of military war dogs and their combat-veteran dog handlers.

18 Supports legislation to insert a clause into discharge briefings of U.S. military personnel making specific reference to veterans service organizations such as The American Legion in their civilian communities.

43 Reaffirms that Congress mandate and appropriately fund the DoD and military services, including reimbursing the National Guard, so as to provide military funeral honors upon request, in coordination with veterans service organizations at local levels.

44 Reiterates the Legion's national-security principles.

45 Calls for reducing the Reserve retirement age.

46 Urges the U.S. government to comply with requirements of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and to recycle nuclear waste to recover usable nuclear energy whenever possible.

47 Urges Congress and the Department of Defense to support and fund military quality-of-life features for active-duty, National Guard and reservists, as well as retired veterans and their dependents and survivors.

48 Urges Congress to enact into law the Code Talkers Recognition Act, recognizing all Native American code talkers, living and deceased, for their World War II service.

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Annual award recipients

FRANK N. BELGRANO JR. TROPHY
For support of Boy Scouts

Department of Illinois

RALPH T. O'NEIL EDUCATION TROPHY
For showing the greatest Americanism activity in use of The American Legion School Medal Awards

Department of Arizona

WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST AMERICANISM TROPHY

Department of Virginia

FOURTH ESTATE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING JOURNALISM

Laurie Stein
WFOR-TV, Miami
For the five-part series "Living With Breast Cancer," which invited viewers to accompany Stein as she learned to cope with the disease both professionally and personally

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR
For companies or businesses dedicated to hiring veterans

Small business
Omega Training Group, Inc., Columbus, Ga.

Mid-size business
Allied-Barton Security Services, Jacksonville, Fla.

Large business
T Square Logistics Services Corp., Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Det. Mark S. Cottom, Springfield Township Police Department, Springfield, Pa.

LOCAL VETERANS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YEAR

Ronald P. Piercy, Asheville, N.C.

OUTSTANDING DISABLED VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR

Jon H. Cone Sr., Fayetteville, N.C.

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE OF THE YEAR

Alabama Career Center, Montgomery, Ala.

HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH AWARD

Department of Indiana

SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARD WINNERS
Enlisted armed-services members honored for volunteering in their local communities

Air Force
Staff Sgt. Roland Kearney Jr.

Army
Spc. Megan McCartney

Coast Guard
Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Erik G. Relford

Marine Corps
Cpl. Jeffrey S. Caraway

Navy
Yeoman 2nd Class Elizabeth Avalos

YOUTH PROGRAM HONOREES

American Legion Baseball Player of the Year
Nolan S. Gallagher

Junior Shooting Sports Champion
Jonathan Hall

Oratorical Champion
Daniel Berring

Boys Nation President
Alexander Arzoumanov

Eagle Scout of the Year
Samuel Nassie

WILLIAM F. LENKER NATIONAL SERVICE TROPHY
For best supporting and implementing programs to benefit veterans and their families

Department of Virginia

GARLAND D. MURPHY JR. AWARD
Presented to the most active department, based on actual contributions received during 2004-2005 for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

Department of Ohio

U.S. "UDIE" GRANT LEGACY AWARD
Presented to the top department, based on combined total donations of Legion, Auxiliary, Eight & Forty and SAL for the Child Welfare Foundation

Department of Ohio

JAMES V. DAY "GOOD GUY" AWARD

Hon. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii

COLOR GUARD CONTEST WINNERS

Military Class
Second District Color Guard, Portage, Ind.

Military Open Class (tie)
Air Capitol Squadron 401, Wichita, Kan.

Essex SAL Squadron 148, Baltimore

Open Class
Superstition Mountain Color Guard Unit 27, Apache Junction, Ariz.

Advancing/Retrieving Colors Contest
Second District Color Guard, Portage, Ind.

BAND CONTEST WINNER

Kansas City American Legion, Kansas City, Mo.

Brady added that last year's election results should send a message to Congress. "For the first time, it's not 'the economy, stupid,' but values, that decided the election." Although the flag amendment has passed the House of Representatives six times, it has not garnered the two-thirds required in the Senate even with a majority of senators favoring it.

"There is no pork or handouts in the flag amendment, and that makes our job more difficult," Brady said. "The courts have made clear that a flag law requires the flag amendment. There is nothing we can do about it."

Computers were set up at the Convention Center, where Cadmus urged Legionnaires to send 10,000 messages to the Senate urging support for the amendment. Members of the Legion family heeded the call and even shut down several senators' Web sites due to heavy traffic.

The Legion unanimously passed Resolution 139, which calls upon Congress to end the practice of awarding taxpayer-funded attorney fees for claims under the Equal Access to Justice Act, which are used by the American Civil Liberties Union to combat public expressions of religion and to harass Boy Scouts of America.

"The 1976 Civil Rights Attorney's Fees Awards Act was much-needed legislation, but in recent years, certain groups have abused the congressional intent of this public law in establishment-clause lawsuits against Boy Scouts of America, the Ten Commandments, and now veterans memorials," Cadmus said. "It's time to fix it."

Cadmus lauded the introduction of H.R. 2679, the Public Expression of Religion Act, by U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, R-Ind. The legislation would correct this abuse of taxpayer money.

Civil-rights attorney Rees Lloyd spoke to the delegation on what he called the ACLU's "secular cleansing of our American heritage through the elimination of our religious symbols and our core values of decency, citizenship and Americanism."

Lloyd, a past commander of American Legion San Gorgonio Post 448 in Banning, Calif., is a former ACLU attorney and is now one of the most vocal critics of the organization. "Using taxpayers' dollars to pay these court-ordered attorney fees – especially when attacking established, traditional American values – is absurd," he said. "The list of victims continues to grow: Los Angeles County, the cities of San Diego and Redlands in California, the school boards in Chicago and Portland, the Village of Castleton, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Defense, Ten Commandments cases in Kentucky, Texas and Alabama, and even a veterans memorial in the Mojave Desert. Who will be next?"

TOP: Past National Commander John Geiger, right, administers the oath of office to incoming National Commander Thomas L. Bock. *Tom Strattman*
ABOVE: Candidate Bock shares a light moment with his son, Army Capt. Adam Bock, prior to the election. *Tom Strattman*

Mile-High Commander. Past National Commander John Geiger paid tribute to Cadmus. "The nation salutes you for your leadership, which was honed in the cavalry and fine-tuned by Ford," Geiger said, recognizing Cadmus' military and civilian backgrounds.

The farewell set the stage for the election of

New National Commander Tom Bock and new Auxiliary National President Carol Van Kirk greet The American Legion 87th National Convention. *Tom Strattman*

National Commander Thomas L. Bock of Paul C. Beck American Legion Post 23 in Aurora, Colo.

"Just remember three things about Tom Bock," said Colorado Adjutant Charles Pat Smith. "His integrity, his sense of humor and his leadership skills make him the right man to lead The American Legion."

Bock, an Air Force Vietnam War veteran, reiterated The American Legion's commitment to veterans, children, Americanism and a strong national defense. "Fourscore and seven years ago, The American Legion had its first convention," Bock said. "Today we are the world's largest veterans organization."

But still, the Legion could be larger, Bock pointed out. "We support veterans, take care of children with great Americanism programs and stand for a strong national defense. What a wonderful organization and an honor to be elected national commander. But one thing we need to focus on is our membership. I can remember in 1992 when we had 3,125,000 veterans in The American Legion, and I can see it happening again."

Bock demonstrated his humor by donning a cowboy hat and chaps – his "rounder" outfit. "A rounder is a special type of cowboy," he said. "He can ride, rope, herd cattle, brand and cook over a campfire. He can do a little of everything. To recruit new members or get renewals, you don't have to know the number of judges in the Oratorical contest. You don't have to volunteer at VA or go to Washington, D.C., to lobby Congress. You don't have to be a Boys State counselor. You just have to know our programs exist and who to talk to for more information. I'm a rounder. Are you?"

SAL Commander William Sparwasser

John Raughter is editor of The American Legion Magazine.

Article design: Doug Rollison

49 Supports legislation strengthening financial anti-terrorism law enforcement of institutions or individuals that use legitimate or illegitimate financial means to help support terrorism.

50 Urges Congress to retain and expand the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences as a national asset.

51 Supports the presence of military recruiters and ROTC units on college campuses.

52 Urges American Legion departments to develop Junior Law Cadet programs with the goal of establishing a national program.

65 Urges support of blood banks and continued promotion of the donation of blood for all emergencies, including the war on terrorism.

70 Urges Congress to procure KC-767 aerial refueling tankers and to re-energize stalled production.

71 Urges a congressional commission be empowered to assess the nature and magnitude of existing and emerging threats to the present and anticipated military space assets of the United States.

82 Urges Congress to restore defense budget cuts impacting modernization and alignment of military service force structures.

120 Urges deployment of military assets such as B-1 bombers across the country to reduce their vulnerability to a terrorist or enemy attack.

167 Opposes closing of Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Dave Rehbein (IA), chairman

92 Calls for granting equal VA benefits to Filipino World War II veterans.

104 Calls for extension of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) notice of appeal filing period to one year following a Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) final denial of an appeal.

149 Calls for increasing the maximum coverage service-connected disabled veterans can purchase under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance Program.

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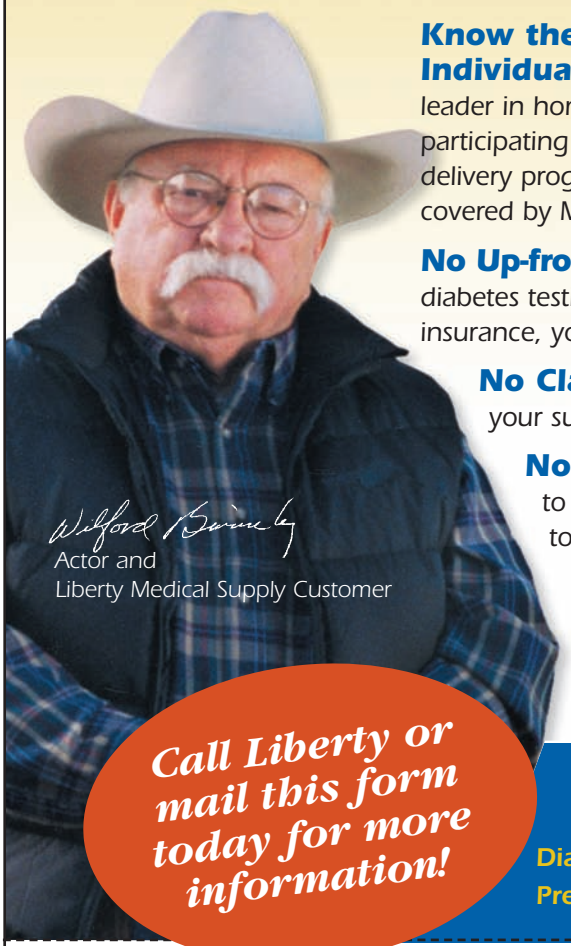

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Roster for a New Legion Year

Willard F. Coffey — *National Vice Commander – Central Region*

Home: L'Anse, Mich. **Membership:** 34 years, Post 144
Military service: U.S. Army, 1955-1958
Occupation: Retired, Michigan State Police
Legion highlights: Post Cmdr., 1970-1974; Post Adj., 1975-1977; Dept. Vice Cmdr., 1979-1980; Dept. Cmdr., 1982-1983
National positions: Law and Order Cmte., 1984-1987; Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Region 5 Cmsn., 1988-1992; Foreign Relations Cmsn., 1998-2005
Region: *Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Wisconsin*

Taurino J. ("T.J.") Trevino — *National Vice Commander – Western Region*

Home: Carlsbad, N.M. **Membership:** 29 years, Post 7
Military service: U.S. Army, 1966-1969
Occupation: Retired
Legion highlights: Post Adj., 1978-1979; Post Cmdr., 1980-1981; Dept. Cmdr., 1993-1994
National positions: Americanism Cmsn., 1979-1982; Foreign Relations Cncl., 1990-1992; Nat'l Exec. Cmte., 1999-2003
Region: *Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Mexico, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Philippines, Utah, Washington, Wyoming*

Sebastian ("Seb") Roll — *National Vice Commander – Midwest Region*

Home: Mott, N.D. **Membership:** 26 years, Post 71
Military service: North Dakota Army National Guard, 1954-1963; Berlin Crisis, 1961-1962
Occupation: Farmer, rancher
Legion highlights: Post Cmdr., 1984-1985; District Cmdr., 1992-1993; Dept. Cmdr., 2002-2003
National positions: Security Cncl., 1993-1994, 2002-2003; Americanism Cncl., 2003-2005; Legislative Cncl., 2003-2005
Region: *Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas*

James H. Hall — *National Vice Commander – Northeast Region*

Home: Hopewell, N.J. **Membership:** 60 years, Post 339
Military service: U.S. Army, 1944-1946
Occupation: Retired
Legion highlights: Post Cmdr., 1951-1952; County Cmdr., 1970-1971; Dept. Cmdr., 1974-1975
National positions: Foreign Relations Cmte., 1978-1990; Nat'l Exec. Cmte., 1984-1989; *American Legion Magazine* Cmsn., 1990-2005; Legislative Cmsn., 2003-2005
Region: *Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont*

Michael Edward Harris — *National Vice Commander – Southeast Region*

Home: Waynesboro, Va. **Membership:** 25 years, Post 42
Military service: U.S. Air Force, 1966-1970
Occupation: Retired, Virginia State Police; currently a commercial pilot
Legion highlights: Post Cmdr., 1994-1995; District Cmdr., 1998-1999; Dept. Cmdr., 2004-2005
National positions: Nat'l & Homeland Security Cncl., 1994-2000; Law and Order Cmte., 2000-2005
Region: *Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, France, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia*

James E. Parker

National Sergeant-at-Arms
Home: Denver
Membership: 53 years, Post 87
Military service: U.S. Army, 1951-1953
Occupation: Retired
Legion highlights: Post Cmdr., 1959-1960; County Cmdr., 1959-1960; District Cmdr., 1964-1965, 1968-1969; Dept. Cmdr., 1981-1982
National positions: Nat'l & Homeland Security Cncl., 1980-2003; Legislative Cncl., 1983-1990, 1993-1994

Steven E. Wright

National Chaplain
Home: Syracuse, Utah
Membership: 12 years, Post 139
Military service: Retired, U.S. Navy
Occupation: Real-estate broker and former attorney (28 years)
Legion highlights: Dept. Chaplain, 1995-1996; Dept. Judge Advocate, 1996-2005; Post Cmdr., 1997-1998
National positions: Foreign Relations Cncl., 2004-2005

Johnny B. Keel

National Historian
Home: New Llano, La.
Membership: 9 years, Post 387
Military service: Retired, U.S. Army
Occupation: Maneuver Analysis
Legion highlights: Post Sgt.-at-Arms, 1999-2000; Post Historian, 2001-2002; Post Adj., 2002-2005; Dept. Historian, 2002-2005

Douglas Wayne Wooddell

Aide to the National Commander
Home: Aurora, Colo.
Membership: 23 years, Post 23
Military service: U.S. Air Force, 1966-1969
Occupation: Plumber
Legion highlights: Post Cmdr., 1991-1992, 2002-2003; Dept. Cmdr., 1997-1998
National positions: Americanism Cncl., 1995-1997; Nat'l & Homeland Security Cncl., 2002-2003

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Valerie Moore is a noted researcher and columnist devoted to exploring couple's health and sexuality issues.

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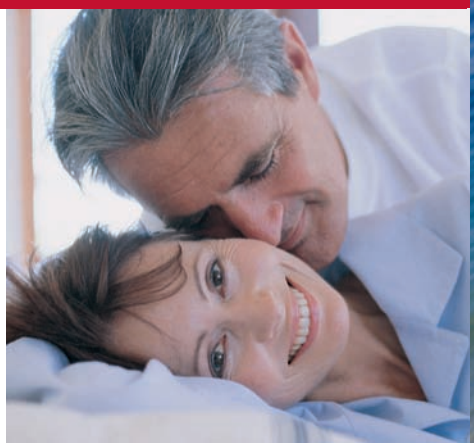
By Valerie Moore



Ask the Expert

Readers: *As you know, I'm always excited to share success stories I hear from readers or news about great new products that come my way. For years, I have been saying Sexual Fitness for men is all about maintaining healthy blood flow and proper urinary flow. This letter from Janet demonstrates just how "Feeling the Flow" has improved her husband's sexual fitness.*

Dear Valerie,

I know this subject is often difficult for men and women to talk about, but I have such good news that I thought I'd share it with your readers. After all, it was your advice that motivated me to help my husband take action with respect to his "dilemma".

For the past couple of years, my husband has been experiencing what we thought was an "age related" drop in his sexual performance. It just seemed like his sexual energy and stamina had really started to fade. Worst of all, when aroused, he wasn't as virile as I'd remembered. I wish I could tell you that it didn't affect his confidence, but it really did. In fact, I was worried that he just wasn't attracted to me anymore. After all these years of marriage, it killed me to see him that way. I knew I had to do something to help him!

Then, a couple of months ago I stumbled on your article "Sexual Fitness for Men as They Age". Your article described some natural ways for improving libido, blood flow, and performance as men get older. You mentioned a product, **Vazomyne – Sexual Fitness Therapy for Men**, which intrigued me. I showed it to my husband and he did a little research. Although he wanted his "edge" back, he didn't feel ready for a prescription so he asked his doctor a couple of questions about sexual fitness.

His doctor told him that what he was experiencing was normal but that in taking a proactive approach to his sexual fitness, he didn't have to accept it! He told my husband about the natural effect of ingredients such as the L-Arginine in **Vazomyne**, that can help to increase blood flow by expanding vessels and capillaries. Plus, the Saw Palmetto and Zinc found in **Vazomyne** have been shown to be excellent for conditioning the prostate to maintain healthy urinary flow. It's pretty widely known that poor prostate health can lead to a drop in sexual performance. Our research showed that **Vazomyne**'s formula was specifically designed to work with a man's body chemistry and really boosts sexual performance for the long run.

Well, I'm happy to say that my husband tried it! He's been taking **Vazomyne** for about 2 and a half months and honestly…he's back! He feels like a new man and he's performing like when we were newlyweds! I've definitely noticed the improvement in his virility when he's aroused and he even has more stamina. But most of all, there's nothing better than seeing my husband get his sexual confidence back. Now he takes **Vazomyne** once a day and he's always ready to "go with the flow," whenever I am!

You were right, Valerie, getting older doesn't mean you can't be "sexually fit".

Thanks,

Janet H.
Portland, Maine

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3. National Championships
The top 15 scorers in both the Precision and Sporter classes receive expenses-paid trips to Colorado Springs in August for the finals at the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

Nearly 900 clubs around the nation are affiliated with The American Legion's fastest-growing youth program: Junior Shooting Sports. Since its launch in 1991, the program has involved thousands of young men and women, producing one Olympian and many members of other U.S. shooting teams. Program director Mike Buss says, "Marksmanship truly teaches life skills, discipline and concentration. Ten meters away, the target is the size of a pencil eraser."

Any American Legion post that wishes to start a team can do so for less than $1,000. **(317) 630-1249, mbuss@legion.org**

Scoring

A perfect shot – taking the dot out of the middle of the target – is worth 10 points. In postal rounds, competitors get 20 shots from each of the three positions. A perfect score is 600.

At nationals, contestants get four opportunities to shoot 20 shots from each position, for a possible 2,400, which has never been achieved. The top eight compete in a 10-shot final round worth a possible 109 points. A perfect grand aggregate score would be 2,509.

Prone Position

Images: Price Chambers

Pellet size
.177-caliber *(actual size)*

Sporter category

Marksmen wear street clothes.

Anyone who competes in the Sporter division at nationals must move to Precision in subsequent national tournaments.

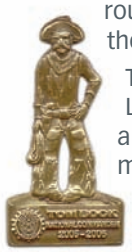
Cocked, compressed air or CO2-powered rifles typically cost between $250 and $500.

[MEMBERSHIP]

Commander calls on all rounders

American Legion National Commander Tom Bock plans to reward his top rounders with special pins this year. Thus comes the question, "What's a rounder?" Webster's New Riverside University Dictionary defines a "rounder" as a "person employed in the gathering of cattle from various places."

"A rounder is a cowboy or cowgirl skilled in a variety of ranchin', ropin', fencin' and cow-pokin' duties," Bock says. "Legionnaires also work hard for the good of the community and can be counted on to complete the job even under the worst of adversity. I want to ask them to perform yet another job – and that is to go and round up all former Legionnaires who failed to renew their memberships in 2005."



Internal Affairs
(317) 630-1321
ia@legion.org

Through the 2005-2006 membership year, Legionnaires and Legion family members can earn a "Rounders" pin by reinstating just four former memberships. Bock will also award a pin for every five new members – defined as eligible veterans who were not members in 2005. Application forms for the pins may be submitted any time but must arrive at National Headquarters on or prior to June 30, 2006. The national membership staff will confirm the information and mail pins directly to recruiters. There is no limit to the number of pins one can may earn.

Age limit: Up to 18 or high-school graduate of current year

2006 Nationals: Aug. 1-6, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Gender divisions: None

Kneeling Position

Standing Position

Championship caliber

Michael Douglass of Waukegan, Ill., won the 1993 Precision championship and later competed on the 2000 U.S. Olympic air pistol team.

Terry Bradley of Cherokee, N.C., is the only national championship winner of both the Sporter (1994) and Precision (1995) classes.

Shooting distance: 10 meters from firing line to target face, and no optical enhancements are permitted on any rifle

Records gunned down in '05

Seven records were matched or broken at the 15th annual American Legion National Junior Air Rifle Championships Aug. 2-7 at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Ron Engel

Jonathan Hall, 17, of Carrollton, Ga., inset, right, claimed the overall Precision title with a score of 2,475. He tied the Precision grand aggregate record and set a final shoot-off record of 103.0, and a Precision standing record of 784. **Micaela Jochum**, 15, of Beatrice, Neb., inset, above left, tied the Sporter kneeling record of 756, set a Sporter standing record of 727, and established a Sporter grand aggregate score of 2,348.5 on the way to capturing the 2005 Sporter title.

Precision category

Marksmen wear custom shooting jackets, pants and shoes for greater stability.

Rifles can reach up to $3,000 in value.

Competitors cannot shoot two years in a row in the national championship tournament in Precision.

Graphic by Holly K. Soria
From left, Sporter athletes Sam Vaughn and Tiffany Lowenstein of Albuquerque, N.M., and Precision athlete Emily Houston of Burke, Va.

[AMERICAN LEGION RACING]

Catch a Busch-car Buzz

NASCAR-loving bean fiends can get their java jolt while supporting American Legion Racing. Uncle Jack's Gourmet Coffee, available in breakfast blend and decaf, is sold by the case. Six 10 oz. packages of ground coffee is $20.95. Sales help pay for the No. 76 American Legion Freedom Car's Busch Series competition.
(888) 453-4466

[POLITICS]

Who will be the first Iraq veteran in Congress?

Paul Hackett, the first veteran from the war in Iraq to run for a major political office, lost his bid to make history in a special election to fill a vacant U.S. House seat in Ohio. Hackett is a Marine reservist and lawyer whose campaign began after he returned in March from a seven-month tour in Iraq. He lost to Republican Jean Schmidt by just four points – 52 percent to 48 percent. Hackett initially opposed the invasion but now supports U.S. presence. "We can't cut and run," he told AP.

OIF vets look to '06 run

- National Guardsman Tim Walz, Minnesota
- Bronze Star recipient Patrick Murphy, Pennsylvania
- Marine reservist David Ashe, Virginia
- National Guardsman Hiram Lewis, West Virginia
- Decorated Marine veteran Van Taylor, Texas

[VERBATIM]

"From the evacuation of patients both prior to and following the arrival of Katrina, to the overwhelming number of VA employees who are volunteering in the continuing recovery efforts, you have every reason to be proud of VA's impact on the lives of both veterans and civilians in the Gulf Coast area."

American Legion National Commander Thomas L. Bock in a letter to VA Secretary Jim Nicholson, praising VA's outstanding response in the hurricane's wake

"This is a tragedy of great proportions, greater than any we've seen in our lifetimes."

Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco on Hurricane Katrina, which left 80 percent of New Orleans under water

"I can only imagine that this is what Hiroshima looked like 60 years ago."

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour after touring his state's destruction

"Nobody named one Katrina yet."

Ochsner Clinic spokeswoman Katherine Voss, on the names of babies born to several Jefferson Parish, La., mothers during the hurricane flooding

All that remained was a skeleton of Gulfport, Miss., Post 119 after Hurricane Katrina made landfall. Legionnaires across the country have raised funds and collected items to help their fellow veterans get through the crisis.

[LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION]

Wrath meets compassion

When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, American Legion posts across the nation mobilized to help survivors. Here are just some of the many ways posts, districts and departments reached out to their fellow veterans, Legionnaires and others:

Post 338, Bradner, Ohio: Raised money for a medical transport to reunite a family separated due to an extreme medical situation. A young New Orleans-area couple with three children, ages 8, 15 months and five weeks, were forced to separate after the hurricane because their infant son had to remain in a Baton Rouge, La., hospital following heart surgery. The wife left Louisiana with two of the children to stay with family while the husband stayed behind with the baby. The surgery was successful, and on Sept. 9, the father and infant were reunited with the family in Toledo, Ohio. The post continues to help the family.

Post 54, Battle Creek, Mich., and Auxiliary: Purchased $2,500 worth of necessities for hurricane victims housed at Michigan National Guard Base at Fort Custer. Items included bottled water, Gatorade, toiletries, wheelchairs, pet food, clothes, blankets and toys.

Post 27, DeRidder, La., and Auxiliary: Housed, fed and transported 41 dialysis patients. Also collected money for the National Emergency Fund.

Post 252, Williamstown, N.J.: Donated $15,000 to the Gloucester County Red Cross. Most was raised through its pull-tab operation, which often benefits local charities.

American Legion Riders of Post 48, Grand Ledge, Mich.: Sponsored a "Ride for Relief" fund-raiser on Labor Day weekend, with all proceeds going to hurricane relief efforts.

– Elissa Kaupisch

Donations can be made to The American Legion National Emergency Fund online. **www.legion.org**

[NEF]

Legion cash grants help victims of Hurricane Katrina

The world's largest veterans service organization acted swiftly in the face of America's largest recent natural disaster. The American Legion National Headquarters sent cash grants from the National Emergency Fund within days of Hurricane Katrina's devastating assault on the Gulf Coast. Legionnaires were eligible to receive up to $1,500 each to cover costs of food, shelter and clothing.

Instead of issuing checks – which would have been nearly impossible to cash in the chaotic days following the hurricane – cash grants, upon approval, were directly placed in members' credit-card accounts. Members without credit cards could have funds transferred directly to a hotel or motel to cover lodging costs.

"We want all Legionnaires to know that help is just a toll-free call away," National Commander Tom Bock said. "Our goal is rapid processing of each application to get money into the hands of our members and their families within a matter of hours."

Legionnaires can call toll-free to apply by phone, **(800) 433-3318.** Another option for those with computer access is to fill out a secure online application at **www.legion.org.**

[PATRIOTISM]

"I am disgusted by this ludicrous attack on the traditional values of the citizens of this country. I'm sure the vast majority of Americans feel exactly the same way. The words 'under God' are a tribute to America's constitutionally protected religious freedom. There is nothing wrong with schoolchildren acknowledging the fact that the founders of our republic openly stated in their writings, before we even had the Pledge, that the United States is indeed 'one nation under God.'"

American Legion National Commander Thomas L. Bock, *following the Sept. 14 ruling by U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton that the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional*

God's place in the Pledge

If you were born after 1950, you probably have no memory of the Pledge of Allegiance without the phrase "under God." It constitutes an important part of the Pledge, because it reminds us that there are things greater than ourselves and our nation.

In our nation, there are many such reminders: the Pledge and a prayer begin each day in the U.S. House of Representatives; words of religious significance are inscribed in the Congress, above the Supreme Court and on our currency; God is acknowledged in patriotic songs – like "God Bless America"; and our Declaration notes that men are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights."

A California court case has challenged the words "under God," and raised the collective national consciousness about how even secular references to God are under fire in the public arena. The Ninth Circuit Court is a handmaiden to this dirty business, ruling that reciting the Pledge in schools "impermissably coerces a religious act" and "places students in the untenable position of choosing between participating in an exercise with religious content or protesting." That is to say, the court thought that it is so conspicuous for a student to not recite those two words of the pledge that it then becomes a protest.

Yes, they are two important words, but in a room of 20 Americans reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, I could not tell you if one person omitted them. It would hardly be conspicuous, and it would certainly not be a protest.

Corbis

In September, another federal judge in Sacramento upheld the 2002 ruling.

A child who refuses to recite the Pledge of Allegiance for personal reasons can certainly not participate without staging a protest of the Pledge. Neither does speaking or listening to the words "under God" coerce a religious act, no more than we are coerced to use currency with "In God We Trust" imprinted upon it.

Our Pledge and our currency, like the rich role of religion in our nation's history, are the proverbial coin of the realm in America. These things are patriotic, honorific references to our American culture – and parts of our culture are based on faith. We cannot, and we should not, scrub references to God from our history and our public way of life.

From an editorial by U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, R-Mo., who has cosponsored legislation to protect the Pledge of Allegiance from challenges and alterations in the courts.

Jeff Stoffer

[ADVOCACY]

Legion honors Home Depot's troop support

When it comes to corporate citizenship, few major companies can compete with The Home Depot. The world's largest home-improvement retailer was recently honored by the world's largest veterans service organization, The American Legion. Top leadership at The Home Depot, including CEO Bob Nardelli, left, received a Legion commendation in part for Home Depot's Project Homefront initiative, which provided $1 million and 1 million volunteer hours to help families of U.S. troops. The company is also a national leader in assuring benefits and pay are not forfeited when employees are deployed.

[GALLERY]

Navy artist killed at sea never to be forgotten

When Earl Henry Jr. was old enough to appreciate his father's gift for art, the elder Henry had been dead for years – lost when a Japanese submarine torpedoed and sank the USS *Indianapolis* in the waning days of World War II.

But his vivid portrayals of birds small and large live on, including the stunning "American Eagle in the Pacific," painted onboard the *Indianapolis* in August 1944. Undoubtedly the most famous painting by Tennessee artist Earl O. Henry Sr., it pictures a majestic bald eagle with wings spread wide against the background of a U.S. Flag. The eagle's talons clutch a writhing serpent with a torn and ragged Japanese flag on its tail, symbolizing the Allies' confidence in an eventual victory over Japan.

Earl Henry Bird Prints
(615) 352-1181, henrybirdprints@aol.com

"I'm especially blessed that my father left so much behind through which I could know him," says Earl Henry Jr., an Army veteran and member of American Legion Post 5 in Nashville, Tenn. He was six weeks old when his father's ship went down July 30, 1945.

Before entering the Navy in 1942, Earl Henry Sr. was a dentist in Knoxville, Tenn., whose first love was birdwatching. Growing up, he collected bird pictures from soda boxes. He spent hours hiking through the woods to match them with birds he saw. Soon he learned to imitate bird calls and to mount birds, later painting lifesize duck images for display in a sporting-goods store.

His enthusiasm for birds grew after he joined the Navy. At Parris Island, S.C., and the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., he observed and painted birds from the shoreline and countryside. He then asked for sea duty, feeling he owed his country a more active role in the war, and was assigned to the *Indianapolis* as the ship's dental officer. He continued to paint birds from memory and sent work home to wife Jane. Once during battle, while waiting at his post below deck for casualties to come, he painted sea gulls.

Henry earned the admiration of the *Indianapolis* crew on "amateur night" by performing bird calls. He also had a talent for building models, including a six-foot replica of the *Indianapolis* using wood and dental clay. It was in his cabin when the ship went down.

"I suspect my father never knew what happened," Henry Jr. says of the sinking, widely considered to be the Navy's worst disaster at sea.

In July, Henry gave a presentation on his father's life and artwork at a USS *Indianapolis* Survivors Association reunion. He played a rare recording of his father doing bird calls, displayed original paintings and sold prints. Naturally, "American Eagle in the Pacific" received the most attention.

For Henry, the long journey to getting his father's work reproduced has fulfilled a longtime dream of his mother – and brought him closer to the dad he never knew.

– Matt Grills

[TROOP SUPPORT]

Program connects deployed troops to home

"My Soldier" is a program launched on Veterans Day 2004 by Manhattanville College student and Army Sgt. Juan Salas after he returned from a 14-month tour of duty in Iraq. The program offers opportunities for people at home to befriend and support troops deployed in the war. More than 150,000 troops receive encouragement from the program, which is run by Manhattanville College in New York.

"My Soldier" Program
2900 Purchase St.
Purchase, NY 10577
(914) 323-5172
www.mysoldier.com

[GI BILL]

Cost of computer exams covered

U.S. military veterans and their eligible dependents may use GI Bill benefits to cover the full cost of any current CompTIA information technology certification exam, the Computing Technology Industry Association recently announced.

Maximum payment per test is $2,000. Visit **www.gibill.va.gov/education/lcvets.htm** for more information.

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Board Member: ICTA / Member: PCGS, NGC

From a foxhole on Saipan, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Dr. Marshall G. Hall wrote a letter to his wife, Emily. This is an excerpt. Hall had practiced medicine for seven years when he enlisted in the Naval Reserve at 36. He was shipped out for combat from San Diego on Jan. 13, 1944, and was transferred to the 4th Marine Division. He wrote more than 100 letters home, all of which are intact, and this one still bears the stains of raindrops from the day it was written, according to his daughter, Susan. Hall survived the war and was promoted to commander in 1946. He was later a dairy farmer and part-time VA doctor in White River Junction, Vt. He died in 1974 at age 69. He would have been 100 this year.

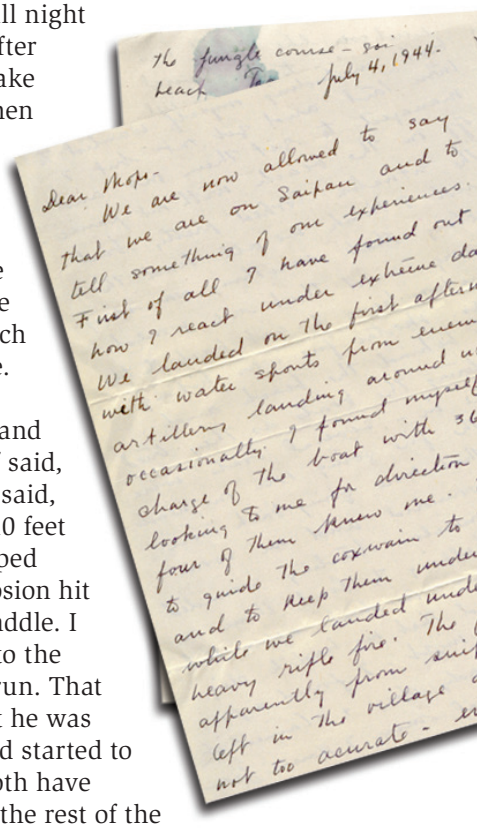
[MILESTONES]

Letter from Saipan, Fourth of July, 1944

Dear Mops,

We are now allowed to say that we are on Saipan and to tell something of our experiences. First of all I have found out how I react under extreme danger. We landed on the first afternoon with water spouts from enemy artillery landing around us. I found myself in charge of the boat with 36 men looking to me for direction. Only four of them knew me. I had to guide the coxswain to the beach and to keep them under control under heavy rifle fire ... apparently from snipers still left in the village – everyone in the boat including myself wanted to turn tail and get out but I managed to get them out and off on the beach without panic. The situation looked pretty bad and I think we all had the feeling that something was very wrong and that we would somehow have to get back to the ships. Mortar fire was hitting just behind the beach and plastering the boats as they tried to come in – several were hit, the fire going over our heads. Boats that were going back were taking wounded, and we soon found ourselves treating wounded and helping to load them. As dusk approached we realized that we had to dig in for the night. I found a foxhole already dug and claimed it. I saw several men I knew from the jungle course going by on the beach. Transport hailed me and came to shake hands. I asked him if he thought the location of my hole was good and he reassured me that it was. I think this gave me much confidence and made me better able to stand a terrific night. Our artillery was directly in front of us and was the object of fire all night – star shells were in the air and bits of shrapnel fell after making a terrifying scream very near us. I tried to make myself as small as possible. My only feeling I think then was if I get through this night I'll be all right. I didn't exactly pray but for a non-churchgoer like me I was mighty close to it. Machine gun fire would fill me with doubt that our troops would ever get in far enough to make the beach. Next morning, mortar fire up and down the beach, we could see it coming as the explosions got nearer. My chief and I were on the beach after loading wounded when they really got the range. We flattened just as one hit possibly 20 yards up the beach. Then one hit maybe 10 yards down the beach and we could hear the screams of the wounded. The chief said, "Let's get out of here, they seem to have the range." I said, "No, not yet," and one whistled over and hit exactly 10 feet from us at the water's edge, wet sand and water dropped down on us nearly covering us. The blast of the explosion hit along our sides and felt like being hit with a heavy paddle. I said to the chief, "Let's get," and we rose up and ran to the nearest foxhole feeling extremely lucky to be able to run. That shell wounded one of my corpsmen, killed the patient he was working on, and several others very near us. If we had started to move when the chief first suggested it ... we would both have gotten it. I lay in the hole, dazed enough not to mind the rest of the near misses. Our planes finally came in and dive-bombed and strafed the mortars out of action and we were comparatively safe from then on. I cannot remember being afraid. I can, however, remember feeling extremely sorry for you and the kids. As each shell began to whistle over, I tightened up and said "those sons of bitches." As it hit I thought of you ... sorry to have caused you so much grief and to have left the kids without a father. If I ever do get hit I believe that will be my last thought.

– Love Ski

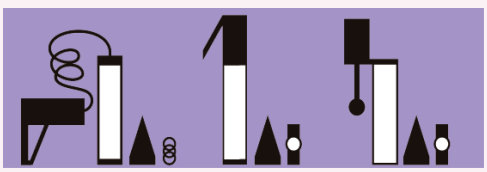


Now you too can beat ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION

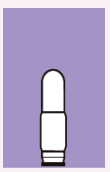
Erectile Dysfunction (ED) effects about 30 million men in the USA. The causes are varied and range from psychological reasons to health conditions. But serious as it is, some men still compound the problem by not taking steps to deal with it. The result – often a complete breakdown in their most intimate relationship.

"My diagnosis of cancer came as a shock to myself and my wife – little did we know that it would also end our intimate experiences... that was until we found the Vacurect™ vacuum therapy system. So simple and easy to use... after several months of use I began to regain my normal function." – Mobile, AL.

Vacurect™ was designed by a 47 year old professional engineer who was experiencing ED himself. With the assistance of urologists and sexologists, he decided to tackle the problems of bulkiness and awkward method of use inherent in traditional Vacuum Erection Device (VED) design. The breakthrough result is an extremely compact and easy to use solution... see for yourself!



Typical conventional VEDS



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[REHABILITATION]

In the footsteps of presidents

Army Sgt. John Iverson was on his 144th mission in Iraq when a roadside bomb ripped apart his leg. The injury was an agonizing ticket home.

Months later, he and his wife Pamela chatted on the aft deck of the former presidential yacht, the USS *Sequoia*. From there, the 42-year-old soldier tried to comprehend his life-altering experience and how it had placed him onboard a vessel where heads of state have been wined and dined.

"This seems unreal to me to be cruising up and down the Potomac in the back of a yacht when a few months ago I was hunkered down in Iraq wondering if I would get home alive," Iverson said while turning the pages of a scrapbook containing pictures of presidents, prime ministers, royalty and celebrities aboard the yacht.

"I was the lead gunner in a three-vehicle convoy when an (improvised explosive device) exploded and killed my driver and two other soldiers in the vehicle. That was June 5. And here I am July 26 on the *Sequoia*. That's a lot to take in."

Army Sgt. John Iverson looks at a scrapbook aboard the USS *Sequoia*. James V. Carroll

Iverson and other injured soldiers receiving treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center were guests last summer of Gary Silversmith, president of the *Sequoia* Presidential Yacht Group, owners of the historic vessel. Among other invited guests were VA Secretary Jim Nicholson, American Legion National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus and four former pro football players: Ed Lee, George Starke, John Booty and Ron George. Silversmith has often made the *Sequoia* available for wounded veterans from Walter Reed, and when the soldiers arrive dockside they rarely know who might be aboard to greet them. It might be the president, members of Congress, cabinet secretaries, sports heroes, movie stars or other celebrities.

"There's no better purpose for this national historic landmark than to take aboard our brave veterans," Silversmith says. "We are proud to carry on a tradition associated with the *Sequoia*. President Eisenhower welcomed Korean War veterans aboard, and President Nixon entertained Vietnam War returnees."

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our veterans to experience the rich history associated with the USS *Sequoia* and all it's meant to our country," VA Secretary Nicholson said. "Eight presidents did business on it, entertained on it and met with foreign leaders on it. In addition to its historic significance, the *Sequoia* is a relaxing place to be. It is a wonderful therapeutic experience, not only for the veterans, but for all of us aboard."

The *Sequoia* is a fully restored, 104-foot 1925 Trumpy-designed yacht that has been designated a National Historic Landmark.

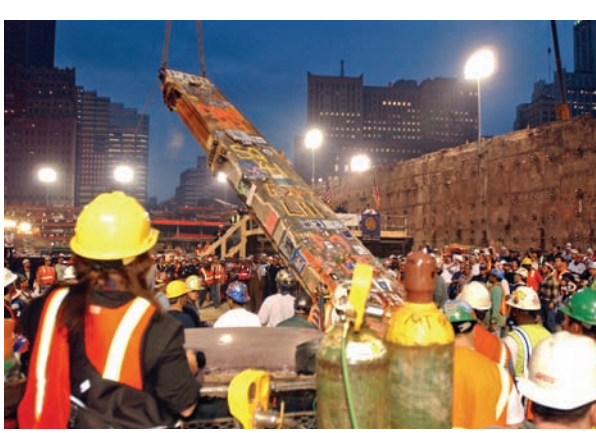
– *James V. Carroll*

[ACTIVE DUTY]

A ship of sacred steel

The Navy's next amphibious transport docking ship, the USS *New York*, is being built with steel from the fallen World Trade Center. A 10-ton beam from the South Tower will form the core of the 1,000-Marine capacity ship, scheduled to be commissioned in 2008. Patrick Cartier, whose son died in the South Tower on 9/11, told *Stars and Stripes* the steel from the attack embodies "the very soul of the event … all of that steel which housed all the people fell along with them, and they were all consumed in that terrible fireball."

Says New York Gov. George Pataki, "USS *New York* will ensure that all New Yorkers and all the world will never forget the evil attacks of Sept. 11."



A structural beam from the South Tower will become the core of a new Navy ship. U.S. Navy

The Spirit of the Marines Shines Bright

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[LIVING WELL]

Are you an educated eater?

BY DR. JOEL KUPERSMITH

We've all heard the maxim, "You are what you eat." Some health experts prefer to say, "You are what you absorb." In other words, even the healthiest diet will do little good if your body can't absorb the food. But there's still more to digestion than eating and absorption. Here's a step-by-step overview of the process:

Eating. What we eat is important. But how and when we eat can also make a huge difference in digestive and total well-being.

Digestion. In a narrow sense, this refers to a particular stage in the digestive process: the breaking down of food into basic components, or nutrients, that our cells can use. This step begins even before we eat, as the thought, sight and smell of food trigger the release of digestive chemicals. The actual breaking down of food begins in the mouth, with saliva and the mechanical action of the jaw and teeth, and continues in the stomach and small intestine, helped by digestive juices, friendly bacteria and the pancreas and liver.

Absorption. In this stage, food passes through the intestinal lining into the bloodstream, to be carried to the cells of the body.

Assimilation. Nutrients enter the cells to enable energy production and other tasks.

Elimination. Waste products are excreted from the body. This phase of digestion involves the colon, kidneys, lymph system, cells, bloodstream, and our body's largest organ, the skin.

Each phase is intricate, delicate and susceptible to problems. Constipation affects 4 million Americans yearly; our nation spends $725 million annually on laxatives and even more on remedies for indigestion and heartburn. Halitosis (bad breath) and gas are often related to poor digestion. Ulcers and colorectal cancer are significant causes of hospitalization.

Fortunately, there are simple steps we can take to improve digestion:

Eat plenty of fiber. Fruits, vegetables and whole grains pass easily through your digestive tract and help keep it running smoothly. Studies have shown that fiber-rich diets, besides benefiting the heart, can help prevent a number of digestive ailments, including constipation, diarrhea, irritable bowel syndrome, hemorrhoids and colorectal cancer.

In a study of more than 3,000 veterans, researchers from VA, the National Cancer Institute and Harvard School of Public Health concluded that proper intake of cereal fiber is among the best ways to ward off serious colon polyps that can lead to cancer. And a team at the Houston VA Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine showed that people who ate more fiber were less likely to suffer frequent heartburn, or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

Veer

Drink lots of fluids. Fluids help with food absorption and assimilation, and lubricate food waste so it passes more easily through your digestive canal. Pure water is the healthiest drink.

Practice good eating habits. Many experts stress the importance of becoming more mindful about eating. They urge that we chew each mouthful thoroughly and consciously and not eat in front of the TV. Also, whether you eat three meals a day or have smaller more frequent meals, try to eat at regular times to aid digestion. And avoid eating a big meal too close to bedtime.

A dietitian or nutritionist can help you create an individualized eating plan to address special issues, such as lactose intolerance or allergies. Exercise and stress management also are of particular value in improving digestion.

Joel Kupersmith, M.D., is chief research and development officer for the Veterans Health Administration.

This article is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.

Attention: MEN OVER 40

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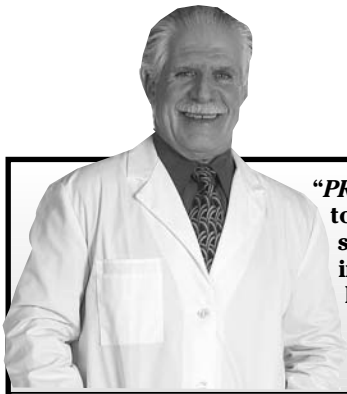

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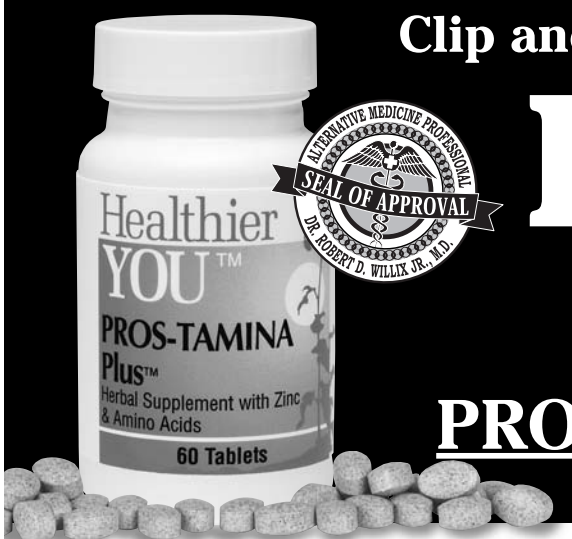

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Enid's Austin Box didn't need to swing the bat to bring in the winning run in The American Legion World Series championship game. *Photo Credit*

Championship
Enid, Okla. 7
Twin Cities, Wash. 6

Semi-final
Twin Cities, Wash. 10
Enid, Okla. 5

Bracket Scores
Enid, Okla. 7
Branford, Conn. 6

Twin Cities, Wash. 13
Brooklawn, N.J. 6

Enid, Okla. 10
Brooklawn, N.J. 5

Branford, Conn. 11
Woodbury, Minn. 9

Twin Cities, Wash. 8
Las Vegas 4

Brooklawn, N.J. 14
Branford, Conn. 4

Enid, Okla. 5
Twin Cities, Wash. 3

Las Vegas 14
Rapid City, S.D. 2

Woodbury, Minn. 10
Dothan, Ala. 4

Branford, Conn. 14
Rapid City, S.D. 2

Enid, Okla. 6
Woodbury, Minn. 4

Brooklawn, N.J. 9
Las Vegas 1

Twin Cities, Wash. 12
Dothan, Ala. 0

One-run finale gives Enid its first ALWS title

In one of the most bizarre finishes ever for an American Legion World Series title game, Enid, Okla., scored on a balk with two outs and the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth inning to beat Twin Cities, Wash., 7-6 at Floyd Fitzgerald Stadium in Rapid City, S.D., on Aug. 23.

The Washington team, which beat Enid 10-5 earlier in the day to force a Game 15 in the tournament, had rallied back from a 6-3 deficit in the top of the ninth inning.

An RBI double by Washington's Jordan Esparza and a two-run single by Kyle Conley made it 6-6 heading into the bottom of the inning. Conley's heroics were nearly stolen by tournament MVP Zac Berg, who almost made an acrobatic diving catch. The Enid star who hit five home runs and tallied 21 RBI in the tournament had the game-tying ball in the palm of his mitt, but it popped out when he hit the ground, allowing the two runners to score.

In the bottom of the inning, Twin Cities intentionally walked two batters, and another reached on an error, when left fielder Austin Box came to the plate with two outs. Twin Cities reliever Jeremy Stumetz turned and pumped at first base, but no one was there, and he didn't throw. Enid's first-base coach shouted that it was a balk, and the ump soon confirmed it, sending the winning run home.

Matt Peck pitched eight and one-third innings for the champs, giving up seven hits and striking out seven. Tyler Fleming recorded the win in relief.

Oklahoma went on a six-run tear in the third inning to gain early control. Berg and Box both batted in a pair on the way to a 6-0 advantage. Twin Cities battled back to within three after a run in the fifth and two in the eighth.

2005 American Legion World Series Awards

All-Tournament Team
Matt Peck, Enid, Okla.; Zac Berg, Enid, Okla.; Tyler Fleming, Enid, Okla.; Tyson Seng, Enid, Okla.; Schyler Burns, Enid, Okla.; Jeremy Stumetz, Twin Cities, Wash.; Michael Tamsin, Branford, Conn.; Adam Tussey, Brooklawn, N.J.; Joe Bonfe, Woodbury, N.J.; Kyle Conley, Twin Cities, Wash.; Paul Martin, Twin Cities, Wash.; Tyler Roberts, Twin Cities, Wash.

Most Valuable Player
Zac Berg, Enid, Okla.

Rawlings Big Stick Award
Zac Berg, Enid, Okla.

Dr. Irvin L. "Click" Cowger RBI Award
Zac Berg, Enid, Okla.

Louisville Slugger Award
Mike Tamsin, Branford, Conn.

Bob Feller Pitching Award
Tyler Cheney, Twin Cities, Wash.

James F. Daniel, Jr., Sportsmanship Award
Tyson Seng, Enid, Okla.

George W. Rulon American Legion Player of the Year
Fernando Irizarry, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

Jack Williams Memorial Leadership Award
Manager Bill Mayberry and coaches Chris Jensen and Butch Lingenfelter, Enid, Okla.

Regional Champions

Eastern Region 1
Branford, Conn. (34-6)

Mid-Atlantic Region 2
Brooklawn, N.J. (41-7)

Southeast Region 3
Dothan, Ala. (42-12)

Mid-South Region 4
Enid, Okla. (56-10)

Great Lakes Region 5
Woodbury, Minn. (32-8)

Central Plains Region 6
Rapid City, S.D. (57-21)

Northwest Region 7
Twin Cities, Wash. (45-18)

Western Region 8
Las Vegas (41-14)

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From the landmark book Grow Young with HGH comes the most powerful, over-the-counter health supplement in the history of man. Human growth hormone was first discovered in 1920 and has long been thought by the medical community to be necessary only to stimulate the body to full adult size and therefore unnecessary past the age of 20. Recent studies, however, have overturned this notion completely, discovering instead that the natural decline of Human Growth Hormone (HGH), from ages 21 to 61 (the average age at which there is only a trace left in the body) and is the reason why the the body ages and fails to regenerate itself to its 25 year-old biological age.

Like a picked flower cut from the source, we gradually wilt physically and mentally and become vulnerable to a host of degenerative diseases, that we simply weren't susceptible to in our early adult years.

Modern medical science now regards aging as a disease that is treatable and preventable and that "aging", the disease, is actually a compilation of various diseases and pathologies, from everything, like a rise in blood glucose and pressure to diabetes, skin wrinkling and so on. All of these aging symptoms can be stopped and rolled back by maintaining Growth Hormone levels in the blood at the same levels HGH existed in the blood when we were 25 years old. There is a receptorsite in almost every cell in the human body for HGH, so its regenerative and healing effects are very comprehensive.

Growth Hormone first synthesized in 1985 under the Reagan Orphan drug act, to treat dwarfism, was quickly recognized to stop aging in its tracks and reverse it to a remarkable degree. Since then, only the lucky and the rich have had access to it at the cost of $20,000 US per year.

Many in hollywood's glamour sets, who never seem to age like you or I, have a special secret to tell, and even space pioneer and US Senator John Glen stays vital with HGH.

The next big breakthrough was to come in 1997 when the American Anti-aging Society, a group of doctors and scientists, developed an all-natural source product which would cause your own natural HGH to be released again and do all the remarkable things it did for you in your 20's. Now available to every adult for about the price of a coffee and donut a day.

GHR now available n America, just in time for the aging Baby Boomers and everyone else from age 30 to 90 who doesn't want to age but would rather stay young, beautiful and healthy all of the time.

The new HGH releasers are winning converts from the synthetic HGH users as well, since GHR is just as effective, is oral instead of self-injectable and is very affordable.

GHR is a natural releaser, has no known side effects, unlike the synthetic version and has no known drug interactions. Progressive doctors admit that this is the direction medicine is seeking to go, to get the body to heal itself instead of employing drugs. GHR is truly a revolutionary paradigm shift in medicine and, like any modern leapfrog advance, many others will be left in the dust holding their limited, or useless drugs and remedies.

It is now thought that HGH is so comprehensive in its healing and regenerative powers that it is today, where the computer industry was twenty years ago, that it will displace so many prescription and non-prescription drugs and health remedies that it is staggering to think of.

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Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other Notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to ***The American Legion Magazine,*** **Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206,** fax **(317) 630-1280** or e-mail **reunions@legion.org.**

The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.** Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to ***The American Legion Magazine,*** **Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to ***The American Legion Magazine,*** **Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

ARMY/ARMY AIR FORCES

8605th AAU, 5th ASA FS, Det 5, 2nd Sig Svc Bn, Tucson, AZ, 5/4-7, George Akerhielm, (315) 682-9460, gjaker@juno.com; **Air Trans Cmd Assn, Mil Air Trans Serv (MATS), Military Airlift Cmd (MAC), European Air Trans Serv, (EATS), Air Mobility Cmd (AMC) (Korea),** Dayton, OH, 5/18-21, Clair Saxon, (703) 370-3076, clsaxon@earthlink.net; **Pilot Tng Class 55-D,** Las Vegas, 11/16-18, Jim Reed, (707) 539-2184, jrflies@aol.com; **SAC Abn Cmd Cont Assn (PACCS),** Tucson, AZ, 4/5-9, Steave Leazer, (760) 367-7631, leazersd@thegrid.net

ARMY

5th Ord MM Co, Middlebury, IN, 5/16-19, George Fowler, (574) 255-4698, gfflowler@michigana.org; **5th Regimental Cbt Team,** San Antonio, 4/4-8, Bill Coulson, (210) 679-6123; **353rd Comm Recon Co ASA,** Waco, TX, 4/18, Gus Gruneisen, (502) 458-3743, cgasagus@aol.com

JOINT

All Vets (WWII, Korea, Vietnam), Las Vegas, May, F. Durbin, (650) 712-0967, all3wars@webtv.net

MARINES

Clarksville Base "Birdcage," Clarksville, TN, 4/27-29, Jim Shipley, (410) 987-4422, jacaship@comcast.net

NAVY

***Aeolus* ARC 3,** York Beach, ME, 5/16-18, Mike Jarvis, (586) 751-4670, mjarvis@nandc.com; ***Cambria* APA 36,** Albuquerque, NM, 4/30-5/3, David Stoll, (419) 738-3786, destoll@bright.net; ***Greenling* SSN 614/SS 213,** Fredericksburg, TX, 5/27-29, Greg Perkins, (509) 627-6701, gcmb@charter.net; ***Kenneth D. Bailey* DD/DDR 713,** St. Louis, 4/27-30, Robert Levine, (617) 327-3286, rhl713@aol.com; ***Mississinewa* AO 144,** Warwick, RI, 7/27-30, Jim Bourassa, (508) 754-2074, jimbo3812@townisp.com; **Naval Avn Basic Tng "Goshawks" Football (Pensacola),** Pensacola, FL, 4/28-29, Jerry Hollifield, (336) 578-8847, meerkat22@triad.rr.com; **Naval Beach Grp 1 (Korea),** San Diego, April, Bill Rodes, (706) 896-4927, wwrodes@alltel.net; **Naval Explosive Ord Disposal & WWII Bomb & Mine Disposal Assn,** Charleston, SC, 3/23-26, Tucker LaBree, (843) 871-8681, labreetuck@aol.com; ***Pompon* SSR 267,** Louisville, KY, 4/20-24, Otis Franks, (502) 937-8999, okfranks@hotmail.com; ***Tarawa* CV/CVA/CVS 40,** Albuquerque, NM, 5/3-7, Charlie Huck, (812) 682-4219; ***Walton* DE 361,** Jefferson City, MO, Spring, Jerry Hudson, (573) 295-6334, marjer67@earthlink.net; **Vietnam-Era Seabees – ACB-1, CBMU-302, NMCB-4, NMCB-5, NMCB-12, NMCB-58, NMCB-62, NMCB-128, NMCB-133, NSA Da Nang & All Dets,** Hampton, VA, 2/3-5, Dave Schill, (856) 234-2273, dwschill@aol.com

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8th Army Band (Korea, 1950-1951), Lyle McDole, (712) 551-1074
20th Comm Sqdn (Rabat, French Morocco, 1953-1955), Thomas Frederickson, (775) 787-3879, countymounty168@aol.com
24th Div B Btry 52nd Bn (Korea, 1950-1951), Racy Tabor, (586) 264-7920, btabor@access4less.net
24th Inf Div 13th FA Bn B Btry (Korea, 1950-1952), Philip Gene Weaver, 4025 North 245 East, LaGrange, IN 46761, darkhorseweaver@hotmail.com
45th Sig Heavy Const Bn 12th Army Grp (Saarbrucken-Kaiserlautern, Germany, 1944-1945), Dick Vaughan, (605) 332-6957
50th Chem Plt (Fort Ord, 1950s), Ron Rossi, (732) 892-2149, rrr33lucky@verizon.com
68th Constab Sqdn (Augsberg, Germany, 1947-1948), Tony DiBenedetto, (508) 674-4501, lav975@aol.com
71st, 79th Army Band (Fort Clayton, Canal Zone, 1949-1958), Al Berry, (770) 754-7902, berry_liu@bellsouth.net
103rd AACS (Mar 1944-May 1946), Jim Johnson, (262) 723-7503
124th Army Band (Yokohama, Japan, 1946-1950), Lyle McDole, (712) 551-1074
132nd Inf Rgt Svc Co & Med Co (Chicago, IL, 1952-1954), Clare Vynalek, (520) 881-4955
196th Sig Photo Co (Florence, Italy, 1945), Tom Sullivan, (650) 359-3285
205th MI Det (Frankfort, Germany, 1971-1975), Roosk Kondratiuk, (508) 223-3232, rosiesdacha@aol.com
366th Sec Police Sqdn (Da Nang, Vietnam, 1960-1970), Ron Polk (918) 426-5056, kegnasty50@yahoo.com
373rd Bomb Sqd (Hunter AFB, GA, 1953-1957), Ray Farawell, (865) 774-1822, raymo2204@bellsouth.net
514th Med Co (Fort Richardson, AK, 1958-1960), John Hansen, (903) 962-7165, jean281941@yahoo.com
536th MP Co (Munich, Germany, 1966-1967), Henry Woods, (412) 781-4145
574th Trans (Toul, France, 1959-1961), Richard Soden, (785) 227-3617, rmsoden@kans.com
580th Eng Co 40th Msl Grp, (Bad Kreuznach, Germany, 1961, Redstone Arsenal, AL, 1967), Bill Winslow, wmwinslo@sbcglobal.net
585th Ord Co (R&C) (Coleman Barracks, Mannheim, Germany, 1953-1955), Sam Davis, 011-52-376-766-1672, samddavis@prodigy.net
714th Railway Bn (Korea, 1947-1949), Wayne Gremore, (800) 638-8473
759th MP Bn, (Africa, Italy, France, Berlin & Southwest Asia, 1942-2005), Dick Burch, gabgm@bellsouth.net
772nd MP Bn A, B, C & D Cos (Fort Meade & Korea, 1942-1955), Dick Burch, gabgm@bellsouth.net
1655th Eng Utility Det (Liege, Belgium, Berlin, Germany, 1944-1945), George "Tony" Meyer, (717) 464-4741, gameyer3@msn.com
6147th Maint & Supply Sqd (Keesler AFB, Biloxi, MS, 1951-1953, APO 70 Korea, 1953-1954), Richard Varnum, (641) 792-1377, transport43@msn.com
7858th Ord MAM Co (Hanau, Germany, 1949-1952), Wayne Cooper, (870) 481-5483
B Co 24th S&T Bn (Augsburg, Germany, 1966-1970), Robert Hines Jr., (781) 828-8099
Chem Warfare Labs (Army Chem Ctr, MD, Nov 1956-July 1958), Kenward Steinbach, (218) 694-6490, kenwardnoel@yahoo.com
Co 4526 Barracks 425 U (Nav Tng Station, Bainbridge, MD, 1943-1944), C.L. Heinlein, (843) 357-4795, hoemb97@netscape.com
***Crommelin* FFG 37,** Brad Manzenberger, (317) 534-0559, bradmanz@insightbb.com

Czech Language School, Class 37 (Presidio, Monterey, CA, Nov 1955-Oct 1956), Bob Stinson, (336) 288-0585, rrstinso@uncg.edu

F Co SCRTC (Fort Gordon, GA, 1952-1954), Jesse Lara, 522A Teakwood Lane, Laredo, TX 78041

FS-264 (South Pacific, WWII), Nick Pezzulo, (239) 566-8288, mgzullo@cs.com

FS-526 (South Pacific, 1944-1945), Paul Lansdown, (580) 234-1244

Greater Springfield Honor Guard Co Navy Co 125 (Bainbridge, MD, July 1957), Robert Cahillane, (413) 584-5545, rpc@crocker.com

HHC 269th Cbt Avn Bn (Cu Chi, 1967-1971), Charles Causey II, (360) 653-9603, chuckcausey2@msn.com

HQ & HQ Det 8th Log Cmd (Camp Darby, Livorno, Italy, 1964-1966), Anthony Bassano, (408) 295-1634, abassano41@netzero.net

***Juneau* CLAA 119 Country Music Band (Korea),** Bob Lawson, (765) 396-3857

LSM 451 (1945-1946), George Bavin, (517) 523-2692, landinr@addison.k12.mi.us

NAF China Lake Hotline P/C (1969-1971), Ronald Sevegen, (216) 251-0667, sevegenr@aol.com

Navy Air Facility (Lajes Field, Terceira, Azores, 1957-1959), Fred Carrico, (574) 272-8037, fredcarrico@webtv.net

Plt 181 MCRD Parris Island (Mar-May 1954), W. Aspenleiter, (631) 667-9107, aspen631@msn.com

QM Demo Unit (Fort Lee, VA, 1948-1949), John Levermann, (512) 360-5254, jandr731@ev1.net

***Ranger* V3 Div (1964-1968),** Gil Green, (916) 361-0960

SCU 1908 MP Det (Camp Cooke, CA, 1942-1945), Dante Ruffolo, (630) 734-0227, cmdr550@msn.com

Sqdn Bn 8 Flt 2832 Basic Tng (TX, March 1948), Glen Ekenstam, (435) 882-2495

Underway Tng Unit (San Diego, 1946-1948), Herb Maserang, (970) 523-0701, heromas@peoplepc.com

TAPS

Raymond T. Anglin, Dept. of Indiana. Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1970-1972, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 1971-1972, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 1975-1980, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1978-1979 and 1983-1985, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Memb. 1979-1980 and 1982-2003, Dept. Cmdr. 1980-1981 and Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. Consultant 1981-1982.

Hon. William Jennings Bryan Dorn, Dept. of South Carolina. Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1964-1974, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1976-1978, Dept. Cmdr. 1979-1980 and Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1992-1993.

A.J. Forestiere, Dept. of Arkansas. Nat'l Pilgrimage Cmte. Memb. 1958-1960, Nat'l Inter-American Cmte. Memb. 1960-1963, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1961-1962, Nat'l Child Welfare Cmsn. Advisory Board Memb. 1963-1965, Nat'l Rehab. Cmsn. Memb. 1965-1967, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Memb. 1966-1967, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1967-2003, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1987-1989 and Nat'l Legis Cncl. Memb. 1993-1994.

Dennis M. Madeira, Dept. of Hawaii. Dept. Cmdr. 2003-2004, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2003-2005.

James W. Van Koten, Dept. of Montana. Dept. Cmdr. 1988-1989 and Nat'l Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Cmte. Consultant 1989-2002.

Joe E. Woods, Dept. of Kentucky. Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1978-1979, Nat'l Security Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1981-1997 and 1999-2004, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1993-1997, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1997-1999, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1993-1994, Nat'l Security Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. 1997-1999.

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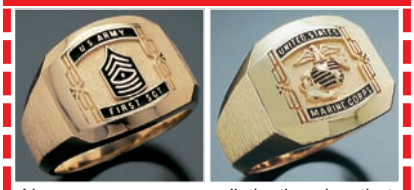

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"Thanksgiving, man. Not a good day to be my pants." – *Kevin James*

THE PRO FOOTBALL TEAM had just finished practice when a large turkey strutted onto the field, walked up to the head coach and demanded a tryout.

Everyone stared in silence as the turkey caught pass after pass and ran right through the defensive line. When the turkey returned to the sidelines, the coach shouted, "You're terrific! Sign up for the season, and I'll see you get a huge bonus."

"Forget the bonus," the turkey said. "All I want to know is if the season goes past Thanksgiving Day."

A WOMAN reported the disappearance of her husband to the police. The officer in charge looked at the photograph she handed him, questioned her, and then asked if she wished to give her husband any message if they found him.

"Yes," she replied. "Tell him Mother didn't come after all."

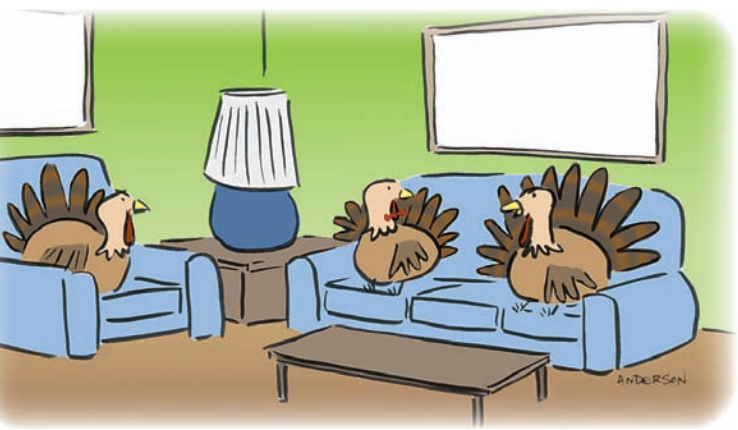
A GROUP OF FRIENDS went deer hunting and separated into pairs for the day. That night, one hunter returned alone, staggering under a huge buck. "Where's Harry?" another hunter asked.

"He fainted a couple miles up the trail," Harry's partner answered.

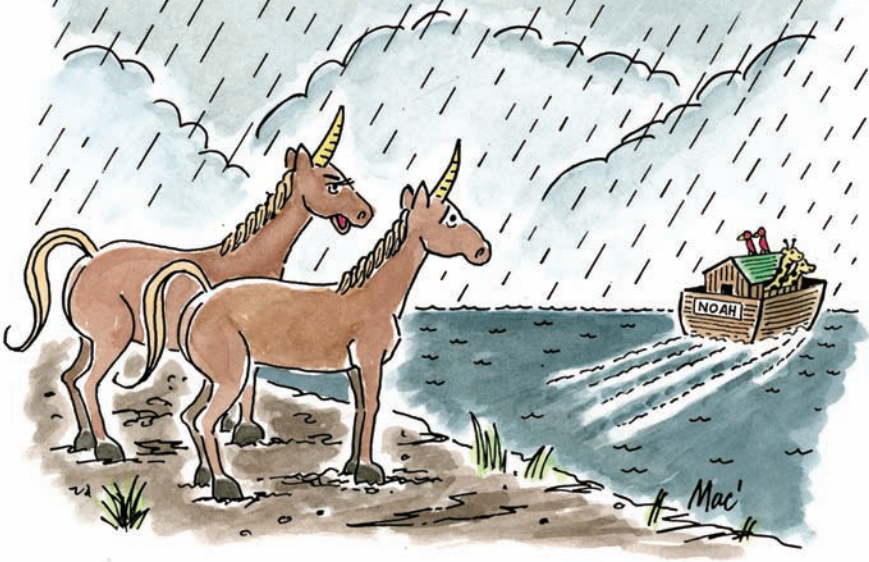
"You left him lying there alone and carried the deer back?"

"It was a tough decision," the hunter said. "But I figured no one is going to steal Harry."

A FOOLISH HUSBAND says to his wife, "Honey, you stick to the washin', ironin', cookin' and scrubbin'. No wife of mine is gonna work."



"Piercing your wattle is one thing, but you are not getting a pop-up thermometer!"



"You and your shortcuts!"

"My girlfriend dumped me for some guy with less carbs."

EVEN AT A Mensa convention, someone is the dumbest person in the room.

A TRUCK DRIVER stopped at a roadside diner for lunch and ordered a cheeseburger, coffee and slice of apple pie. As he was about to eat, three men on motorcycles pulled up outside. They came in, and one grabbed the trucker's cheeseburger out of his hand and took a huge bite from it. The second biker drank the trucker's coffee, and the third wolfed down his apple pie. The truck driver didn't say a word. He simply got up, paid the cashier and left.

When he was gone, the bikers snickered and congratulated each other on being so bad. As the cashier walked up, one of them growled, "He ain't much of a man, is he?"

"He's not much of a driver, either," the cashier replied. "He just backed his 18-wheeler over three motorcycles."

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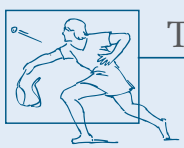

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